

STORIES OF THE YEAR

Independent writers on the moments that made 1996

BEST BARGAINS OF THE SALES

Your complete guide, page 7

The single flake of snow that brought a white Christmas windfall

Clare Garner

A single flake of snow falling on the London Weather Centre dealt a blow to the bookies who were already reeling from shelling out £92,000 to punters who had laid money on the Spice Girls topping the Yuletide charts.

The arrival of the solitary flake on a rooftop in London's Clerkenwell was all that was needed to mark yesterday as Britain's first white Christmas in 20 years. Both Ladbrokes and William Hill will today start paying out around £100,000 to thousands of punters cashing in on the windfall. The only question is whether the winners realise their good fortune.

"I hope they won't be throwing their slips away," said Simon Clare, a spokesman for Ladbrokes. "They'll be looking out of their window and thinking: 'No way, when in fact they will be clutching what could be a fairly valuable Christmas bonus'."

There's not a sign of snow on the ground, but it definitely is a white Christmas. People have been asking: "Does it have to stick?" "Does it have to be in certain places?" But the fact is that at least one flake of snow on the London Weather Centre roof equals a white Christmas. By all accounts there wasn't much more.

It is only the third time that Ladbrokes has lost the seasonal flutter since it started the "fun Christmas bet" in 1964. And this year it took more money for the bet than in any previous year. The odds started at 12-1 last January, fell to 10-1 at the beginning of December and then to 2-1 on Christmas Eve.

Graham Sharpe, spokesman for William Hill, described the snow fall and Spice Girls' No 1 as a "double whammy". The biggest winner in the capital was James Sexton, a public relations consultant who gave 1,300 clients Christmas presents of a £1 snow wager.

The day was marked by record supermarket spending. British Telecom's busiest day of the year - and Heathrow's quietest.

In Northern Ireland, Christmas revellers set a world record for a single day's trading by Marks & Spencer store. More than 30,000 people piled into M&S at Sprucefield, outside Lisburn, Co Antrim, on Monday, spending almost £1m.

The bumper total marks the largest food takings for any M&S on a single day anywhere in its world-wide chain. Andrew Keating, manager of the store, said people started queuing before 7am, when the store opened, and were still arriving when it closed - 15 hours later.

Christmas Day was BT's busiest day of the year - and yesterday's dialling looked set to beat last year's total of nine million hours' worth of calls around the world, and in particular in Australia, Canada, the US, New Zealand, the Republic of Ireland and the Caribbean.

BT was expecting an increase of 10 per cent on the 47,229,687 calls made last year on the 25th when 33 million calls were local, 13 million regional and just over a million international. The average call length was 12 minutes, compared to the usual 2-to-5 minutes of a working day.

Meanwhile, Heathrow airport was experiencing its quietest day of the year. Staff enjoyed a break as a mere 41,000 passengers passed through the arrival and departure gates.



Snow-go: Mountain bikes, courtesy of Santa, were given a thorough testing in the snow on the Yorkshire moors yesterday, as London had its first white Christmas for 20 years

Photograph: Nigel Bennett

Blair targets Tory funds

Anthony Bevis
Political Editor

Lord Nolan to be asked to investigate controversial donations to party coffers

The issue of Conservative Party funding will be referred to the Nolan Committee on Standards in Public Life if Tony Blair wins the next election.

There has been considerable disquiet and anxiety on both sides of the Commons for many years about the way in which the Tories have raised funds.

Donations have included £50,000 from Tung Chee-hwa, a 59-year-old shipping tycoon chosen by the Chinese Communist Party to head Hong Kong's first post-colonial government; £250,000 from Mohamed Al Fayed before the 1987 general election; and £440,000, later found to have been stolen, from fugitive businessman Asil Nadir.

Ann Taylor, Shadow Leader

of the Commons, told *The Independent* yesterday: "After the election, there will have to be a thorough overhaul of party financing, and it will be for the Nolan Committee to make the initial inquiry."

Last May, Mr Blair asked John Major to widen the remit of the Nolan Committee, "so that the funding of all political parties could be looked at in a proper and impartial manner."

Refusing that request, the Prime Minister told him that the matter had already been investigated by the Commons Home Affairs Committee, and that was that.

But Mr Blair will not leave it at that, if elected. He told Mr Major that if the governing party rejected the demand for impartial investigation, "the in-

evitable question that everyone will ask is what it has got to hide?"

Lord Nolan is scheduled to finish looking into local government next spring when he will be ready for fresh meat. Senior Labour sources believe that "once the stone is turned over, all sorts of muck will crawl out."

While the 1994 Home Affairs Committee inquiry was kept on a tight leash by the inbuilt Conservative majority, a minority report by Labour MP Chris Mullin pulled no punches in its description of the sleaze that could be exposed by a thorough public investigation.

Labour refuses all foreign donations, but Sir Norman Fowler, then Conservative Party chairman, told the Home Affairs

Committee that he would not want to spurn gifts from people who "may well have business interests in this country [and] perhaps take the view that they want this country to continue as a free enterprise economy and want to support a free enterprise party."

However, the Mullin Report was far more critical. It quoted a former Tory party treasurer, Lord McAlpine, talking of off-shore accounts, and recalled a 1993 *Independent* report that Octav Botnar, a former head of Nissan UK, had in the early 1980s "channelled large donations to the Conservative Party through an off-shore bank account in Jersey."

The report added: "Botnar began his association with the Conservatives in the 1970s

when he was lobbying for an end to the quota system which restricted the volume of Japanese cars that could be imported into the UK ... Mr Botnar is now wanted in the UK on allegations that he was involved in a huge tax fraud."

The Mullin Report also cited *Independent* reports about donations made through covert companies, used to disguise the destination of the cash, and other bodies that were used to "launder" gifts.

It also touched on the most difficult allegation, of "a relationship between political donations and honours", saying: "Between the election of Mrs Thatcher in 1979 and the 1993 New Year's honours, 18 peerages and 82 knighthoods have been given to industrial-

ists connected with 76 companies which have between them over the same period donated £17.4 million to the Conservative Party and its front organisations.

But Mr Mullin also drew links between donations and privatised companies; donations from British-domiciled foreign businessmen who receive generous tax treatment; and the election-time availability of prime-site advertising billboards, and the Conservative Government's treatment of the tobacco and brewing industries that control them.

After the last election, the Conservatives were reported to have a £19m deficit. They are believed to have about £20m to spend on the next election.

The secrecy of Conservative funding is so great that even members of the party's Board of Finance are kept in the dark about where the money comes from, and where it goes.

In evidence to the Home Affairs Committee, Eric Chalker, a member of the Conservative Board of Finance between 1989 and 1993, said that "over £67m of expenditure was recorded by Conservative Central Office in that time, but nobody had to account for one penny of it."

Why did the blue-eyed woman with long black hair blow herself up and kill two others at midnight mass?

Inure Karacs
Born

A Christmas Eve service in a Frankfurt church ended in carnage when a woman blew herself up, killing herself and two of the congregation. German police issued a photograph yesterday of the severed head of a woman, with blue eyes and long black hair, believed to be responsible for the attack. She appears to have left no note.

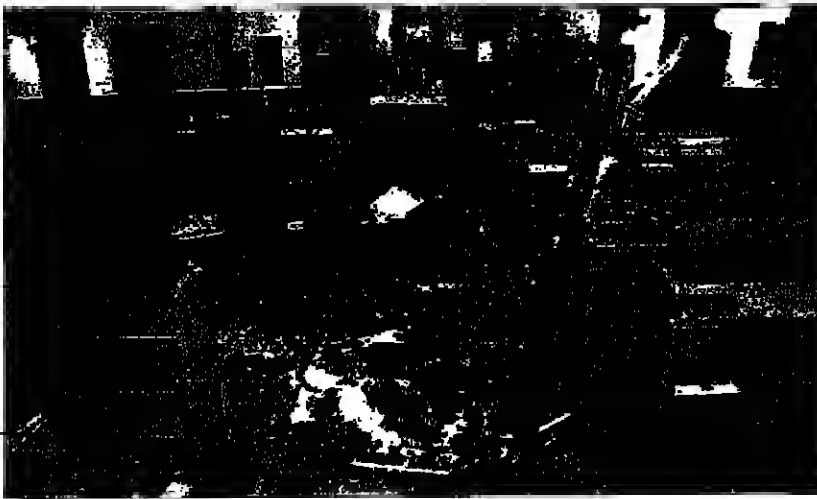
Yesterday, as investigators sifted through the church and heard the testimonies of shocked witnesses, the only clue was a misshapen torso and the unknown head blasted clear of the body. What lay beside the head to ordain the extinction of three lives may never be known.

The suspect, aged about 30, was thought to have detonated two hand-grenades strapped to her body, just as the Lutheran congregation began to sing the first hymn during the late-night service. Two sisters, aged 59 and 61, who were sitting near her, died instantly. Thirteen people were injured, including a mother and her 12-year-old daughter, who were in critical condition in hospital last night.

Investigators were confident that the attack was linked to terrorism or politics. "The evidence indicates that she was disturbed and wanted to kill herself in a spectacular action," said a police spokesman.

The suspect entered the small church in the working class suburb of Sindlingen, shortly after the pastor opened the service at 11pm. She sat in the third pew from the back, and although it was warm inside, she did not remove her coat. Witnesses recall seeing her sitting still, with her face shrouded by a scarf, her eyes apparently fixed on the Christmas tree next to the pulpit.

The grenades went off as the 70-strong congregation rose to sing. 15 minutes into the service. Worshippers at the front of the



Aftermath: Splintered pews and debris in the aisle of the church Photograph: AP

church recalled hearing a muffled bang behind them. By the time they had swung around, the orderly rows in the back had become unrecognisable. Crumpled blue hymn sheets littered the floor. The pews had been reduced to splinters, covered with broken bodies. The red carpet in the aisle was torn up, with blood-soaked garments lying scattered in the middle. A pair of twisted spectacles had been propelled across the hall. And the white walls were splattered with charred human remains.

The worshippers, mostly local people who knew each other well, fled in panic from the church, only to run back, fearing that the attack had come from outside.

"At this point we can only speculate about the cause of this criminal act," said Manfred Reist, the city's police spokesman. "The evidence indicates that she was disturbed and wanted to kill herself in a spectacular action."

Frankfurt's police chief, Wolfhard Hufmann, said: "I have no idea who could have done such a thing on a day like this. We are completely baffled."

A baby boy born on Christmas Eve froze to death while his homeless mother wandered through the German city of Goettingen looking for a warm place to stay, police said yesterday.

Wrapped in a blanket, the boy was cold and lifeless when his 28-year-old mother finally reached a homeless shelter to escape the icy night, a spokesman said.

She had given birth only hours earlier in a deserted house in the university city and the boy at first seemed healthy, she told police.

A doctor who hurried to the shelter could only pronounce the infant dead and determine there were no signs of any violence on the corpse, the spokesman said.

QUICKLY

Queen looks forward

In traditional Christmas speeches yesterday the Queen urged people not to dwell on the past but to look forward to the future, while the Archbishop of Canterbury looked back on some of the tragic events of the year.

Page 2

Bishop's protest

The Bishop of Lincoln refused to preach his Christmas sermon in his own cathedral yesterday. The Rt Rev Robert Hardy's move was the latest demonstration of the struggles between the cathedral's dean, Dr Brandon Jackson, and almost everyone he works with.

Page 3

Settlers defiant

Defiant Jewish settlers, angry at the prospect of a peace deal between Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat, plan to flood Hebron with thousands of sympathisers. They want to resist the redeployment of Israeli troops from the city.

Page 6

Sporting best

In tomorrow's *Independent* we publish a 20-page special sports section with all the best of the Boxing Day action.

CONTENTS

The Broadsheet	
Arts	16-17
Business & City	19
Crossword	26
Foreign News	6
Film	17
Home News	2-4
Review of Year	9-17
Sales Guide	7
Sport	20-26
TV & Radio	25
Weather	2

Aquascutum

WINTER SALE

STARTS TOMORROW

UP TO 50% OFF ORIGINAL PRICES

100 Regent Street, London.

9-13 Brompton Road, Knightsbridge.

38 Park Lane, Meadowhall Centre, Sheffield.

24 St Ann's Square, Manchester.



9 770951 946443

Nurses facing death charge said to be well

Two British nurses accused of murdering an Australian colleague in Saudi Arabia have told a British embassy official they are tired but are being treated well.

The British consul Lawson Ross visited Deborah Parry, 41, from the Midlands, and Lucille McLauchlan, 31, from Scotland, for the first time on Christmas Eve. Mr Ross arranged for the two women to speak to their families over the phone and discussed details of legal representation with them.

The access to the women came after 48 hours of intense diplomatic pressure following their arrest after Foreign Office efforts failed to secure their release. They spent Christmas Day in Dhahran Central Prison and could face public beheading if found guilty of murder, although sources said the death penalty would be unlikely.

A spokesman for the Foreign Office said embassy officials would be putting them in touch with a number of legal experts in Dhahran. The two Britons have been formally charged with the murder of Yvonne Gilford on 11 December. Human rights activists say the Saudi record on justice is one of the worst in the world. Almost 70 people - none of them European - have been beheaded this year alone. It is the form of execution regularly used in murder cases.

Miss Gilford was found dead in her room at the King Fahd Military Medical Complex in Dhahran, where all three women worked. The 55-year-old senior theatre nurse had been stabbed four times, battered with a hammer and smothered. She moved to Saudi Arabia six months ago from South Africa because she thought it was a safer country.

Nursing unions in Scotland said they had no record of the nurse named as Lucille McLauchlan and there was no indication of where in Scotland she may have originated.

A report that a 51-year-old nurse called Lucille McLauchlan was dismissed from a Dundee hospital where she was training in May this year was confirmed last night in a statement from Dundee Teaching Hospitals. But the statement added: "Dundee Teaching Hospitals have no knowledge of any link between this person and any events in Saudi Arabia."



Splashing out: Swimmers braving the chill for their traditional Christmas Day dip in the Serpentine in London's Hyde Park. Photograph: Emma Boon

Queen skirts round Dunblane controversies

Kate Watson-Smyth and Clare Garner

The Queen yesterday urged people not to dwell on the past but to look forward to the future, while the Archbishop of Canterbury looked back on some of the tragic events of the year and called for a return to Christian values.

In her traditional Christmas message, broadcast from Sandringham, Her Majesty hailed President Nelson Mandela as an example of "how to accept the facts of the past without bitterness".

"His example is a continuing inspiration to the whole Commonwealth and to all those everywhere who work for peace and reconciliation," she said.

The address came at the end of another troubled year for the Royals, as the Queen headed a family gathering minus her sons' ex-wives and warned against recriminations over personal or political problems.

"Each year brings its share of difficulties for many families," the Queen noted. "This year, I know, has been no exception. And during it some have suffered bereavement of a tragic and shocking kind," she added, in an apparent reference to the Dunblane massacre in March.

The Queen appeared to skirt around controversy sparked by Prince Philip last week, when he said British laws banning most handguns, introduced since the massacre, were an over-reaction and guns were no more dangerous than cricket bats.

"At such times, it is tempting for all of us, especially those who suffer, to look back and say 'If only,'" she said. "But to look back in that way is to look down a blind alley."

In his Christmas Day sermon at Canterbury Cathedral, Dr George Carey urged people to face up to their spiritual needs as well as material ones.

"In our society, that feels at times so adrift from its moral, historical and institutional roots, I detect an increasing desire in people to find a spiritual home," he said.

"We have seen it expressed this year, in the response to the killings at Dunblane and to the murder of Philip Lawrence."

"It has been there too in the debates on morality and the call for our Millennium Celebrations to be something much more than a trade fair or a street party."

He urged the congregation to embark on a "spiritual journey towards God" to find the fulfilment they were looking for.

In Rome, Pope John Paul

wished the world a happy Christmas in 55 languages but said the spirit of the nativity was marred by tensions in the Holy Land and international indifference to the tragedy in Africa.

In his *Urbi et Orbi* (to the city and the world) blessing and message, the 76-year-old Pontiff said Christmas meant not being resigned to violence and injustice but to strive to overcome hatred and racism and return to dialogue.

The Pontiff, who this year did not celebrate a Christmas Day mass for health reasons, spoke to thousands of people gathered under dark skies in a rainy St Peter's Square.

"The echo of the songs of Christmas must travel much farther," he said. "It must resound beyond walls where the clash of arms is still heard, shattering the spell of peace brought by this holy day."

The Pope, celebrating his 19th Christmas season as leader of the world's 960 million Roman Catholics, said that while the past year had brought peace to Bosnia, Guatemala and elsewhere, it was elusive in many other places.

The Pontiff, who has suffered from a series of health problems, celebrated a solemn midnight mass in St Peter's Basilica, 12 hours before his address.

Holidays without pay rise by 20% in four years

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

The number of people working without paid holidays has increased by almost a fifth since 1992, according to a Commons library analysis of Government figures.

Jan McCartney, Labour employment spokesman, yesterday used the analysis to condemn Government obstruction of the European working time directive, which would give employees the right to three weeks paid holiday each year.

"It is a disgrace that ministers are denying millions of people the right to a paid day off, whilst they enjoy a Christmas break themselves," he said. The Commons is on Christmas holidays until 13 January.

According to the Commons library analysis of the official Labour Force Survey, the number of people without paid holiday entitlement has risen from 1,975,000 to 2,358,000 since 1992, representing 10.7 per cent of the British workforce. If Northern Ireland is included, the overall proportion rises to just over 11 per cent.

Mr McCartney said that more than half of the 424,000 men working part-time get no paid holiday.

He said: "Far from being the party of the family, the Tories are preventing many families from spending a proper holiday together, simply because their bread winner is not entitled to

paid time off. Not giving staff time off increases stress and damages performance at work."

"Britons already work the longest hours in Europe, often for the lowest pay. Without a paid holiday, many people are forced to work not just anti-social hours, but on holidays as well, just to make ends meet. It's about time we all had a rest from this hypocritical Tory government and its sweat shop policies."

Following a ruling by the European Court, insisting on British implementation of the Working Time Directive, the Government is currently consulting business and industry before introducing legislation.

There is a suspicion at Westminster that the new law might be delayed until after the election, enabling the Conservatives to use it as a campaign weapon, arguing that Labour favours the job losses that would allegedly result from its introduction.

Labour Health spokeswoman Tessa Jowell yesterday issued a report showing the extent to which the Government has distanced itself from the management of the National Health Service - with details of 50 key areas that are no longer being monitored by Whitehall.

It is now commonplace for Stephen Dorrell, the Secretary of State for Health, to answer many factual Commons questions with the reply that the information requested is not held "centrally" by the Government.

significant shorts

Yeltsin vows to pay overdue wages

Addressing the nation for the first time since returning to the Kremlin on Monday after his recovery from heart surgery, President Boris Yeltsin yesterday pledged to pay back-wages and to "awaken" sluggish bureaucrats who have failed to collect the necessary tax revenues.

Mr Yeltsin said in a radio address that it was essential that the government start paying state workers and retirees who have gone months without their regular cheques. "I know how hard life is for Russian families," he said. AP - Moscow

£15m revamp for 'poor' housing estate

A run-down housing estate, with "high levels" of poverty, has been given a £15m Christmas present which will include a new swimming pool and fitness centre.

Some £2.5m over five years will come from the Government's Single Regeneration Challenge Fund, with £4m from Oxford City Council and £5m from the Housing Corporation and the Oxford Citizen's Housing Association. The balance will be paid by private companies and other organisations. Work is set to start in the new year.

Woman found dead in cell

A young woman has been found dead in her cell at a jail where five inmates have committed suicide in the past 15 months, it was disclosed yesterday.

An immediate investigation has been launched at Cornton Vale Prison, Stirling, into the death, which happened on Christmas Eve. The body of 22-year-old Yvonne Gilmore, from Glasgow, was found in her cell at the prison's Bravo block at 11pm. It is understood that prison bosses are treating the death as suicide. Earlier this year prison inspectors issued a damning report on Cornton Vale following a series of deaths there.

Ms Gilmore was serving a three-month sentence imposed at Glasgow Sheriff Court on 8 December for assault, shoplifting and breach of the peace.

House fire kills mother

Police are investigating a "suspicious" house fire in which a young mother died early yesterday.

The 34-year-old woman, who has not been named, died when the fire broke out at her family's semi-detached home in the Bushbury area of Wolverhampton, West Midlands, shortly after 2am. A 33-year-old man and two children escaped and were being treated in hospital.

IRA warning

Prison officers in Northern Ireland have been told to tighten personal security after an IRA bomb warning.

The alert came when the IRA claimed to have left a bomb under a prison officer's car at the Maze prison, Lisburn, County Antrim. No device was found, however; the caller said the bomb had either failed to explode or had fallen off the vehicle.

Britons to walk on Arctic sea

Two British explorers are hoping to become the first men to walk unsupported across the frozen Arctic Ocean. Dr Stephen Martin and David Mitchell plan to begin their trek in the spring.

Hauling supply sledges weighing 375lbs, they hope to raise £1m for the David Shepherd Conservation Foundation, which saves large mammals in the wild.

RIP: Marine rests in pub

Friends of former Royal Marine Kenny Brown yesterday carried out his final wish by spreading his ashes outside the pub he loved best.

Bruce Carnall, manager of the Stanhope Hotel in South Shields, said that Mr Brown, 46, who died of pneumonia on 16 December, "wanted his ashes scattered so that every time it rains, people will trample him through the bar".

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

Austria	£140	Norway	£15.00	OVERSEAS SUBSCRIPTIONS
Belgium	£180	Poland	£14.00	For mail, 12 weeks Europe £130.76; Zone 1 (Middle East, Africa, Asia and India) £184.06; Zone 2 (Far East and Australasia) £206.70. To order, please send cheque payable to Independent Newspapers Ltd, 100 Fleet Street, London EC4A 3DF or telephone 0171-376 3238. Credit cards welcome.
Canada	£200	Portugal	£12.00	BACK ISSUES
Denmark	£120	Spain	£12.00	Back issues of the Independent are available from Historic Newspapers, telephone 01958 940370.
France	£140	Sweden	£12.00	
Germany	£140	Switzerland	£14.00	
Greece	£140	USA	£30.00	
Luxembourg	£140			

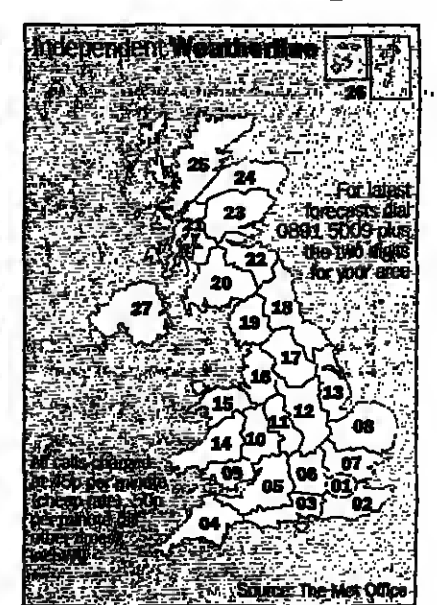
Weather forecast



Forecast for today: Dousing Drizzle will be cold across much of Scotland and N. Ireland with sunny spells, although in a few spots it may stay very cold and misty all day. Northern Scotland will become cloudy with some rain or sleet later. Meanwhile England and Wales will be largely dry with sunnier and just isolated showers on the south coast, but it will be very cold with overnight freezing fog persisting all day in some central areas.

Outlook for the next few days: There may be some misty showers in eastern Scotland and north-west England, but most places will be fine and cold, although thick freezing fog may linger in some central regions. Over the next few days it will continue to be cold, with frost and patchy freezing fog being the main features of the weather.

WORLD WEATHER	YESTERDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Amsterdam	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Birmingham	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Bristol	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Cardiff	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Edinburgh	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Glasgow	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
London	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Manchester	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Newcastle	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Nottingham	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Sheffield	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Southampton	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Stirling	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Wolverhampton	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Wrexham	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00



WORLD WEATHER	YESTERDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Amsterdam	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Birmingham	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Bristol	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Cardiff	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Edinburgh	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Glasgow	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
London	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Manchester	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Newcastle	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Nottingham	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Sheffield	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Southampton	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Stirling	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Wolverhampton	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Wrexham	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00

WORLD WEATHER	YESTERDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Amsterdam	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Birmingham	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Bristol	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Cardiff	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Edinburgh	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Glasgow	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
London	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Manchester	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Newcastle	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Nottingham	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Sheffield	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Southampton	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Stirling	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Wolverhampton	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00
Wrexham	12.00	10.00	11.00	12.00	13.00	14.00	15.00	16.00

With up to £6,000 cashback, you won't be stuffed after Christmas.

Here's a simple way to make the excesses of Christmas easier to digest. Move your mortgage to TSB and we'll give you up to £6,000 cashback. This should

THE TSB MORTGAGE CHALLENGE

take care of a few bills and leave you with enough left over to bit the sales. So take up the challenge now, call TSB PhoneBank free on the number below for a quotation.

CALL FREE 0500 758 000 Quoting ref INS1

Mortgage Quotation Line

TSB We want you to say YES

To obtain £6,000 cashback, a mortgage of £142,000 and three eligible insurance products are required. Typical example: based on an endowment mortgage of £140,000 on a property valued at £60,000 repayable after 25 years (100 monthly payments) to finance a home purchase for a non-remortgaging couple (male aged 27 and female aged 25 years). Monthly payments at TSB's standard variable rate, currently 12.0% (APR 7.25%) would be £214.48. Total gross amount payable (TAP): £112,738. APR and TAP include typical legal fees: £110. Examples assumes TSB Property Plus TSB Mortgage (normal minimum term 1 mortgage over £15,000. Assignment/assignment of a suitable life policy may be required by the bank as security. Tax relief at 15% on £30,000 is assumed. The value of any 18 or over Subject to status. Not available in the Channel Islands. Where quotations are available on request. Calls may be recorded and monitored. TSB Bank plc and TSB Bank offshore are members of the TSB Group, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority only for TSB the insurance, pensions, unit trusts and Registered in England and Wales. Number: 1089288. TSB Bank Scotland plc, Henry Duncan House, 120 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4LH. Registered in Scotland. Number: 06320.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Call 0336 401777 for the latest local and national traffic news.

Source: The Automobile Association. Calls charged at 45p per min (plus 50p per min for calls from other landline and VAT).

0500 758 000

The season of ill-will

Bishop stays away from cathedral for first time in 100 years as Lincoln feud runs deeper

Andrew Brown
Religious Affairs Correspondent

On the day of good will to all men, there was little to be found in Lincoln. For the first time in more than a century, the Bishop of that diocese refused to preach his Christmas sermon in his own cathedral.

Instead, the Rt Rev Robert Hardy took to the pulpit in the parish church of Welbourne, a village 10 miles south. It was the latest demonstration of struggles between the cathedral's dean, Dr Brandon Jackson, and almost everyone he works with.

The Bishop's theme was the futility of rushing around at Christmas time: we do not need to hurry to God. He has come down to meet us. The Bishop did not refer to any world troubles nor the scandals at his cathedral; he did not need to. The row is infamous, with the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, and most of the cathedral staff urging Dean Jackson to resign.

Bishop Hardy had been scheduled to preach at the 9.30am service at Lincoln Cathedral yesterday. Instead, Canon Andrew Stokes gave a sermon, on ways to deal with anger. The message of Good Friday and the reconciliation between man and God describes how to deal with increasing anger, which manifests itself in problems like road rage, he said. "Rage has characterised exchanges between Lincoln's clergy in recent years. The appeals for resignations have become more and more desperate. Yet it all started so well. When Dean Jackson was appointed Dean in 1989, he came with a reputation as a moderniser and efficient administrator, which was, Margaret Thatcher had been told, just what the cathedral needed. "There'll be blood on the carpet before he's done," she is meant to have said when she chose him. The source of this story is uncertain, but it is almost certainly the dean.

He was an early media vicar and was religious adviser to Yorkshire Television 1969-79. In 1995, as he faced a consistory court over allegations of an improper relationship with a female parishioner, he was described by his friend the Bishop of Ripon as "the epitome of a Christian gentleman" and this seems to have been pretty much his own opinion too.

In the early years of his feud at Lincoln he was always available to visiting journalists, and told them far more than they could print. They were his main allies in his struggle against the sub-dean and treasurer,



Pulpit protest: Bishop Hardy of Lincoln at Welbourne, where he preached yesterday instead of at his cathedral, because of the dispute

Photograph: Tim Smith/Guzelian

Canon Rex Davis, an Australian who had worked at the World Council of Churches and who had originally also been regarded as a moderniser.

His wife, Caroline, was a leader of the Movement for the Ordination of Women. But in the medieval constitution of Lincoln cathedral, he found a

and neither can be removed except by death or a criminal trial. So far as we know, murder has not been attempted over the past seven years. Everything else has been, from criminal proceedings to archiepiscopal exhortations.

Dean Jackson came from Bradford Cathedral, which has

an exhibition for six months. At the end of that time, the Cathedral had lost £56,000 on the deal.

Dean Jackson called in the Fraud Squad and gave the story to the press. Canon Davis refused to resign, and reported him to the Press Council. The Bishop mounted an investigation which concluded after a year that the whole chapter should resign, with the Dean. All refused. The two men at the heart of the matter went to counselling together for a year. The counsellors gave up, as did the Fraud Squad. During the first years of the decade, Dean Jackson managed to rid himself of all the original chapter members except Canon Davis.

In an entirely related development, a commission under Lady Howe was set up to examine government of English cathedrals, and recommended reforms which will prevent any cathedral clergy hanging on to their jobs in the face of such universal appeals to go.

Then came the news that a former verger at the cathedral, Verity Freestone, had accused the Dean of a brief affair with

her. He was acquitted after a three-day trial held in the oldest purpose-built lunatic asylum in Britain. At a press conference he accused the Bishop of being part of a conspiracy against him, and demanded that he resign. The Bishop refused.

For most of last winter Dr Carey tried in secret to per-

suade both the dean and sub-dean to resign. Dr Jackson apparently agreed in principle, but demanded financial compensation and an assurance that Canon Davis would quit at the same time. This last condition appears to have been dropped. Last week his solicitor said he was negotiating a payoff with

Lambeth Palace and that Dr Jackson will probably leave in the new year. "I'll believe it when I see it," said a member of the bishop's staff. Asked whether Bishop Hardy gave good sermons, Mary Jackson, wife of Dean Jackson, said: "If I said what I thought, I wouldn't want you to print it."

It all started so well ... but the appeals for resignations have become more and more desperate

niche that suited him down to the ground. A fairly vigorous attempt to reform the cathedral's constitution had been made in 1929. It failed. Since then, nothing had disturbed the balance of power between the dean and the four residentiary canons who form the governing body of the cathedral with him. The essence of this balance is that everything important must be done by consensus. Neither the dean nor the rest of the chapter run the cathedral but each can stop the other running it;

a modern constitution which means the provost, the equivalent of the dean, runs it. At Lincoln he needed a reason to force out chapter members he regarded as obstructive - which it became clear meant them all.

He thought he had found it when accounts came to light of a fund-raising trip to Australia that Canon Davis had undertaken in 1988. He took the cathedral's copy of the Magna Carta, one of the four originals, with a party containing family members, to an international

Nerds with a problem find that assistance is off-line

A telephone line operating out of a small industrial estate in the Midlands is likely to be the most overloaded number in Britain this Christmas. It is one of the main chain store's computer-software helplines. And it is jammed most of the time. I know, because I have been trying to get through.

The tree fairy arrived early, in November, with a personal computer promising "effortless access to all the fantastic built-in software and on-line facilities" for "adults and children alike". The Packard Bell executive multi-media, packed with £1,000 of software installed in the factory, will be one of the best sellers this Christmas, and "adults and children alike" will be dialling the help number.

It was comforting to see it flashing on the screen as I prepared to plunge into the world of PC nerds. I had a bewildering range of options - take a virtual-reality trip around the Louvre, explore the sea with a dolphin, make my own Batman and Robin cartoon, play the computer chess, learn French with Astérix, or enter the Internet through Planet Oasis. But I had a more mundane task first: to write a report and file it to the Independent. I had been doing this without a hitch on a laptop, and knew there was something to do with a thing called a modem before I could hook up.

I looked up modem in the quick-start guide. It offered advice on how to send a fax from Windows 95, from paper, how to access the Internet. Page 64 was headed: using a modem; underneath was a section on fax/modem set-up and diagnostics. It seemed pretty straightforward. "Clicking Start, Settings, Control Panel and Modems successively brings you in the Modems Properties screen." That is where I made my first mistake. I entered the right dial-up numbers, sat back, and waited for the



Computer helpline promises are not what they seem, writes Colin Brown

connection. I got an irritating "bing" before being told the other modem was not responding. It was clear from the noise emanating from my twin speakers that it had responded. Something was wrong.

I twiddled with the settings, and got nowhere. Then I remembered the helpline number. Engaged. I tried again. Still engaged. I tried at night. Engaged. I tried in the morning. Engaged. I tried another number for Packard Bell. They advised me to ring another number. It was the same number. I started with. And it was still engaged. I continued fiddling with the settings.

Bored, I tried the Internet. Now I ran into real trouble. An error sign said I had committed an illegal act! Worse, the computer moaned "Oh, no" - a noise which sounded as if it was borrowed from the Simpsons television cartoon.

I tried the help line at all hours of the day. It was constantly engaged. Things were getting pretty desperate. Child's play had defeated me.

As the days grew into a week, I tried at all times of the day and the evening to get through. The constant beeping of the engaged tone was beginning to disturb my sleep. I woke at four one morning and finally snapped. I telephoned the helpline. Outside, the moon was up. Britain was gently sleeping. And the call was answered.

The software expert was all caring, like a Samaritan helper for suicidal computer nerds. "We do get pretty busy. The busiest times are at the weekend. It usually gets busy again at about 8am, and then all day until about 1am. Then it tails off a bit."

Sleepless computer nerds all over Britain were queuing up even now but he listened to the problem and suggested the simplest solution would be to start from the beginning again, by restoring all the software to the factory settings by using the master disk.

Since then, I have not looked back. I discovered the modem I was using was the wrong one - I should have used something called the "HyperTerminal". There are still a few problems. I still cannot find the £ sign in the word-processing system.

And every time I try to call up the CD system in the Navigator room, I get the following message: Unable to launch c:\voyetra\voyetra\windata\audiosta.exe. But who cares? I can phone the software helpline again. I will not give you the number: it will only add to their queues.

Europe blocks duty-free drinks for the troops

Anthony Bevins
Political Editor

Duty-free drink and other tax free-perks enjoyed by UK-based Commonwealth troops for more than 40 years are being killed off by Brussels.

The perks were introduced under Royal Prerogative in the late 1940s, and were then incorporated in the Visiting Forces Act 1952.

But Customs and Excise has recently discovered that two Brussels directives restrict relief from value-added tax and excise duties to Nato forces only, and that the Government has been acting illegally for at least nine years.

Faced with the problem of how to "regularise the legal position of the United Kingdom in relation to EC law", the Treasury asked the European Commission for an exemption - or "derogation" - for the Commonwealth forces, "to enable the United Kingdom to continue affording relief to non-Nato Commonwealth forces from taxes and duties".

Philip Oppenheim, Eschequer Secretary to the Treasury, said earlier this month that the UK is considering how best to work towards a compromise.

But it would appear that he has little chance of success - and Commonwealth forces are facing a bill estimated at up to £1m in duty on their alcoholic drink, tobacco, and fuel bills, as well as VAT on all purchases.

Mr Oppenheim told MPs: "The Brussels Commission has recommended that the Council [of economic and finance ministers] reject the UK application for a derogation ..."

"The commission asserts that such a derogation would not be restricted to one member state but would apply throughout the community and would entail a change in relevant directives."

"In the commission's opinion, the procedure must be applied with constraint."

But as the final decision requires unanimity, taking only one minister to vote against, it is unlikely the Commonwealth troops will retain their perk.

PREPARE FOR THE STORM.

TIMBERLAND SALE STARTS 27TH DEC.

72 New Bond Street and 125 Long Acre, Covent Garden. Stores open at 9am.

Timberland

Warning: The Seven Deadly Sins might not damage your health

Liz Hunt
Health Editor

Lust and gluttony are the least deadly of the Seven Deadly Sins, according to the first detailed medical analysis of the transgressions, which highlights their positive qualities.

Lust drives people to create, to achieve, to make themselves as attractive as possible, and

even unrequited lust has its good points, it is claimed.

WB Yeats's frustrated passion for Maude Gonne is cited as a pertinent example of the benefits of lust, inspiring as it did "the greatest body of love poetry in the English language," according to Dr Liam Farrell, a GP from Crossmaglen in Northern Ireland and the man charged with the analysis of lust

by the *British Medical Journal*. In the current issue Dr Farrell quotes from *The Song of Wandering Aengus*: "It had become a glimmering girl/With apple blossom in her hair/Who called me by my name and ran/And faded in the brightening air," and asks "Would a few good bard shags right at the start of their relationship have deprived us of these sublime and unfor-

gettable verses? As Balzac said (afterwards), 'There goes another good novel'."

Professor John Garrow, a leading nutritionist, has only good things to say about gluttony (and to a lesser extent sloth), pointing out that the opposites of these are asceticism and hyperactivity. "I would not mind people around me being hyperactive, so long as their mo-

tives were purged of the other deadly sins, but asceticism, restraint, or self denial are not characteristics that I would welcome in my associates and still less deeply in myself," he says.

Professor Garrow says that of the Seven Deadly Sins, the penalties of gluttony fall upon the sinners themselves, while pride, wrath, envy, lust, or avarice, "probably make life

unpleasant for those around them."

Dr Simon Wesley, of the Department of Psychological Medicine at King's College School of Medicine, says that the sin of pride is now fashionable, and that many psychologists view it as a positive emotion, listing it alongside love, joy, and gratitude. He writes: "In the film *Wall Street* the motto 'greed is good'

became the epitaph of the 1980s. A 1990s remake would have Michael Douglas as a psychologist telling us that 'Pride is good'."

Professor James McCormick of the Department of Community Health and General Practice at Trinity College, Dublin, blames the notion of sloth as a sin on the Protestant work ethic. In countries with the tradition of siesta, it is absent, he says, while time to "stand (or sit or lie) and stare, time to think, is seen by others as sloth". He cites the example of one scientist who, during a discussion on the importance of new equipment, said: "We do not need more equipment, we need to think, we need a *chaise longue*."

Professor McCormick laments the fact that sloth has become even more deadly in recent years because the "couch potato" not only gives offence, but is known to shorten his life too. "As somebody who looks after several people who are living to die the slow death of senescence, there seems to me a strong case for relatively early and speedy death. In a world where all women are taking hormone replacement therapy and all men are taking statins (anti-ageing drugs), the possibility of peaceful myocardial infarction (heart attack) will diminish, and many more can look forward to a life *'sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything'*."

He argues that sloth is a sin only in the eye of the beholder and "we need the luxury and benefits of occasional sloth."

Greed in the medical world has little to do with moxie, according to Dr Ralph Crawshaw from Portland, Oregon. He accuses some doctors of being "time misers" who turn up for clinics late and leave early, or spend clinic time on personal administration and phone calls. Patients may be "service misers" and Alfie, played by Michael Caine in the film of the same name, is a "stunning example." Dr Crawshaw says: "The Alfies of our world have an insouciant

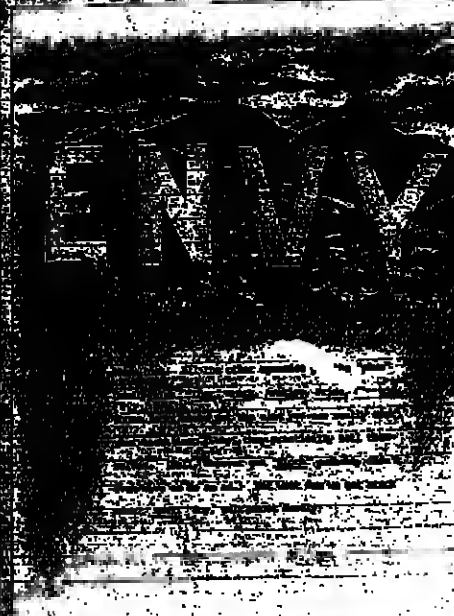
manner of riding an ambulance to casualty to demand a sleeping pill or immediate treatment of chapped lips. They know their rights and use them for relentless demands."

Envy, according to Professor Louis Appleby, a psychiatrist at the Withington Hospital in Manchester, is different from the other Seven Deadly Sins, in that it is the only one that does not have an enjoyable side. "It is all resentment, ill-will, and sour grapes." In fact, he finds little that is positive to say about envy and recalls that it was Sigmund Freud's view that this state of mind "explained" women. It is not easy but jealousy that worries modern psychiatrists, he says, because it is more than thought "it leads to action."

Professor Chapman from the Department of Public Health and Community Medicine at Sydney University, asked to

pontificate on wrath, prefers instead to choose someone worthy of the wrath of doctors and public health workers. "Surely, with currently three million deaths a year to their names, it's hard to pass by the strategists within the tobacco industry as exemplary candidates for our collective wrath." Professor Chapman says: "The recent revelations about over 30 years of lying, scientific palm greasing, and every manner of deceit and cover-up in the international tobacco industry, for the purposes of keeping as many people smoking as possible, showed that these people have all the ethics of a cash register."

... and for seasonal sermonisers, some suggestions on how to promote them



Hard sell: Harper's magazine in the US approached leading American advertisers to promote a campaign promoting the Seven Deadly Sins. Each agency pitted in-house teams against one another. Four of the winning entries - for Lust, Wrath, Greed and Sloth - are shown above.



JOANNA HALL, Department Manager
NEW B&Q GUILDFORD NOW OPEN

B&Q SALE

OPEN TODAY 10am-5pm

"Fantastic Sale Offers on Kitchens and Bathrooms."

33% OFF

SELECTED KITCHEN UNITS

Glendale Mulberry Aston Claremont Green

Glendale
9 Unit Kitchen
Example as shown
Was \$814.91
NOW £543.25

9 UNIT KITCHEN EXAMPLE
1 500mm HIGHLINE BASE UNIT
2 1000mm HIGHLINE BASE CORNER UNIT
3 1000mm HIGHLINE BASE CORNER UNIT
4 600mm BUILT UNDER OVEN HOUSING
5 1000mm HIGHLINE BASE UNIT
6 600mm WALL UNIT
7 1000mm WALL UNIT
8 600mm BUILT UNDER OVEN HOUSING
9 1000mm WALL UNIT
All units are self-contained. Other units available, call in store for details and costs. Example includes items only as stated.

25% OFF

SELECTED KITCHEN UNITS

Aspen Cheriton Coniston Sandhurst Tumbery Derwent Edmonton Bordeaux

Aspen
9 Unit Kitchen
Example as shown
Was \$564.91
NOW £423.66

0% INTEREST FREE CREDIT

ON SELECTED KITCHENS

Up to 2 years interest free credit when you spend \$1,800 or more on 28 other kitchens in the range. Your purchase can include accessories, worktops, sinks, taps, appliances and installation costs.

TYPICAL EXAMPLE REPAYMENT TABLE	PURCHASE PRICE	CREDIT PERIOD
PURCHASE PRICE \$1,800	\$1,800 - \$2,399.99	18 months
20% MINIMUM DEPOSIT OF \$360	\$2,400 or more	24 months
LOAN VALUE \$1,440		
18 MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS OF \$80		
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE (\$1,440)		

* Interest Free Credit subject to acceptance, to UK residents only. 20% minimum deposit required. PC not applicable to discounted kitchens or kitchens stocked in store. Written quotations available on request. Ask in store for details. B&Q plc.

SHELDON SUITE & INSTALLATION FOR ONLY £499



WAS \$299
SUITE NOW £249
Installation for Sheldon suite only. £250

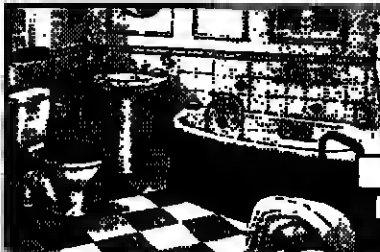
Suite can be purchased without installation. Suite comprises straight white acrylic bath and front panel, 2 1/2 hole basin and pedestal, c/c pan and cistern, white wooden toilet seat and gold effect bath and basin taps. (Includes waste). Ask in store for details and conditions of installation.

£100 OFF

SELECTED BATHROOM SUITES



Country Cottage Bathrooms Suite
White acrylic bath with antique pine effect front panel and toilet seat and gold effect bath and basin taps.
Was \$595
NOW £495



Sherwood Corner Bathroom Suite
White acrylic offset corner bath (L/R hand), mahogany or antique pine effect front panel and toilet seat and gold effect bath taps and bath taps (not bath/shower mixer as shown).
Was \$495
NOW £395

SWIFTCALL



- A minimum pre payment of £25 entitles you to £25 of Swiftcall talktime, penny for penny, that's over 4 hrs to the USA.
- All you need is a tone phone, and you almost certainly already have one. You're not limited to just using your own phone either, use a mobile, pay phone, hotel phone, or even a friend's today!

USA	10p 30p	HongKong	40p 60p	S.Africa	80p £1.02
Denmark	18p 36p	Taiwan	40p £1.08	Nigeria	70p £1.31
Australia	28p 54p	S.Korea	50p £1.08	Pakistan	80p £1.33
Japan	36p 77p	India	60p £1.33	Bangladesh	80p £1.33

For information on hundreds of other destinations and to open an account.

CALL US NOW

© Swiftcall need the clock whenever, wherever rate. On 1 standard weekday rate. Operators are working by 24hrs, a day 7 days a week ready to take your call. Please give your credit card ready. Swiftcall must be charged in pounds per minute and are fully inclusive. Subject to change at 30 days notice. Prices correct as Dec 1996.

EARN TESCO CLUBCARD POINTS AT B&Q

Pick up a leaflet in store. Does not apply in B&Q Warehouse or B&Q Depots.

OPENING HOURS

Boxing Day: Thurs 26th Dec 10am-5pm. Monday-Saturday: Most stores 9am-6pm. Sunday: Most stores 10am-4pm (where permitted). Scotland & Northern Ireland 9am-6pm. New Years Eve: Tues 31st Dec 8am-5pm. New Years Day: Wed 1st Jan 9am-5pm. Scotland CLOSED. Certain store hours may vary, please phone your nearest store to confirm.

A BIGGER CHOICE • A BETTER PRICE

B&Q

YOU CAN DO IT WHEN YOU B&Q IT!

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST DIY CHAIN - FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0800 600 900

We're now on the Internet - <http://www.diy.co.uk>

Ask in-store for details of all offers. Offers may vary at B&Q Warehouse and B&Q Depots. See in-store for details of our price promise. All kitchens and bathrooms may not be displayed in all stores but can be ordered from any B&Q. Installation only available with purchase of kitchen and bathroom and not included in all discount offers. Ask in store for details and costs. Ask in store for details and costs. Ask in store for details and costs.

0800 600 900

IF £150* PER MONTH IS WITHIN YOUR REACH, SO IS EVERYWHERE ELSE.

*PLUS DEPOSIT AND FINAL PAYMENT

Mountain slopes, muddy forests, dry river beds. Complete driving freedom starts with the very complete Freedom Finance scheme. It gives you total flexibility when it comes to buying a Land Rover Discovery. For instance, £150* per month is only one of the repayment schemes we offer.

You can choose the size of your deposit from anything between 10% and 40% of the purchase price. So, your monthly payment could be even lower.

How can we be so flexible? It's because Land Rovers are built

LAND ROVER DISCOVERY 2.5 TDI, 3 DR 25 MONTH AGREEMENT, 12,000 MILES PER ANNUM			
On the road price*	£20,650.00	Final Payment	£13,000.00
Deposit	£7,287.00	Charge for Credit	£3,331.00
Amount of Credit	£13,363.00	Total Payable	£23,981.00
24 Monthly Payments*	£150.00		
Guaranteed Future Value**	£13,000.00		

APR 12.93%

*ON ADMINISTRATION FEE OF £30 PLUS VAT AND A SALES AGENCY FEE OF £30 PLUS VAT IS ADDED TO THE FIRST MONTHLY PAYMENT.

to last. Which is why we can guarantee the future value of your vehicle. In fact, if you wish, you can structure your payments so

that at the end, you receive a lump sum of money which you can put towards a new Land Rover. (There is another option, of course, you can give the car back and walk away.)††

That's not all, you can choose from 5 mileage bands, and you can pay over 24 or 36 months.

Whichever way you do it, you have the reassurance that all the costs are worked out in advance and put down on paper.

So, whatever the conditions, you have the same number of surprises as you have behind the wheel of a Discovery. None at all.



CAR SHOWN IS ON TEST

For further information either call Freephone 100 Land Rover or send/fax the coupon to: Land Rover Administration, Freepost TK 494, Twickenham, Middx TW2 5UN (Fax 0181 894 3089)

Title Initials Surname BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE PRINT TWO

Address Postcode

Current Car (Make/Model) Daytime Tel. (inc. STD)

Registration Letter (e.g. K) ☐ Is it owned privately ☐ When do you expect to be replacing it? (e.g. 8/97)

If you do not wish to receive information about other Land Rover products, tick here ☐

THE BEST 4x4x4[®]



DISCOVERY 4 DOOR 1700 CC ON-ROAD PRICE £20,225. COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AND VEHICLES REGISTERED OUTSIDE THE U.K. ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE FREEDOM PLAN. *PRICE CORRECT AT TIME OF GOING TO PRESS. ON THE ROAD PRICE COMPREHENSIVE RETAIL PRICE PLUS £620 FOR DELIVERY FROM THE MANUFACTURER, NUMBER PLATES AND 12 MONTHS ROAD FUND LICENCE. **TO ENABLE LAND ROVER TO DO THIS, YOU WILL HAVE TO ENTER INTO A SALES AGENCY AGREEMENT (REFER TO ABOVE) AND YOU WILL HAVE TO RETURN THE CAR IN GOOD CONDITION AND SERVICED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE MANUFACTURER'S SPECIFICATION. IF THE VEHICLE IS RETURNED TO LAND ROVER WITH MORE THAN THE AGREED MILEAGE, YOU WILL HAVE TO PAY THE EXCESS VALEAGE CHARGE SHOWN ON THE AGREEMENT. CREDIT AVAILABLE TO THOSE AGED 18 OR OVER, SUBJECT TO STATUS (A GUARANTEE MAY BE REQUIRED). WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST. CREDIT IS OFFERED BY LAND ROVER FINANCE, PART OF JAGUAR GROUP. RESPECT THE COUNTRYSIDE. DRIVE RESPONSIBLY OFF-ROAD.

It's a great time to liven up your wardrobe or add some style to your home. But you'll need a strategy. Here are details of what's on offer, plus some tips from the professionals. Compiled by **Abigail Raynor**

Tridias
Starts 28 Dec, at 124 Walcot Str
Bath (01225 314730) and in all
branches and 2 Jan by mail order.
Celebrating its thirtieth birthday,
children's toy retailer is offering
fantastic collection of imaginative
items at brilliant discounts.

Only Currys bring you all this

MON

SALE TELEVISIONS SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £200

JVC 14" Portable TV with Teletext. 34cm visible screen size. Model TAETL. Was £189.99. **SALE PRICE** £179.99. **SAVE** £10.00.

SONY 14" Portable TV with Teletext. 34cm visible screen size. Model TAETL. Was £249.99. In-store Price £209.99. **BUY NOW PAY JULY '97**

GRUNDIG 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Teletext. 51cm visible screen size. Model S75725. Was £329.99. **BUY NOW PAY JULY '97**

PANASONIC 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Teletext. 51cm visible screen size. Model 21AD1. In-store Price £379.99. **BUY NOW PAY JULY '97**

MATSUI 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Teletext. 51cm visible screen size. Model 21AD1. In-store Price £379.99. **BUY NOW PAY JULY '97**

SANYO 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Teletext. 51cm visible screen size. Model 21AD1. In-store Price £379.99. **BUY NOW PAY JULY '97**

HITACHI 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Teletext. 51cm visible screen size. Model 21AD1. In-store Price £379.99. **BUY NOW PAY JULY '97**

HITACHI 21" NICAM Stereo TV with Teletext. 51cm visible screen size. Model 21AD1. In-store Price £379.99. **BUY NOW PAY JULY '97**

TOP BRAND VIDEOS SAVE UP TO £80

MATSUI Long Play Video with Remote Control. Model 10A1100. Was £149.99. **SALE PRICE** £139.99. **SAVE** £10.00.

SONY Long Play Video with Videotape. Long play increases recording and playback time of tapes. Model SLV275. Was £299.99. In-store Price £249.99. **6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION***

AIWA 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with Videotape. Model HVX2500. In-store Price £259.99.

HITACHI 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with Videotape. Model HVX2500. In-store Price £259.99.

SONY 4-Head Super Hi-Fi NICAM Stereo Video with Videotape. Model HVX2500. In-store Price £259.99.

PANASONIC 4-Head NICAM Stereo Video with Videotape. Model HVX2500. In-store Price £259.99.

TV VIDEO PACKAGES SAVE UP TO £100

SHARP 21" Fastest TV with Remote Control. 51cm visible screen size. PLUS Long Play Video with Videotape. Model ST1524. Total Separate Selling Price £449.99. **6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION***

SONY 21" Fastest TV. 51cm visible screen size. PLUS Automatic Video with Videotape. Model ST1524. Was £529.99. **6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION***

AIWA CD Mini Hi-Fi. 40 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £189.99. **SALE PRICE** £169.99. **SAVE** £20.00.

AIWA CD Mini Hi-Fi. 40 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £189.99. **SALE PRICE** £169.99. **SAVE** £20.00.

BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL RETAILER'S

SAVE UP TO £120

UP TO 18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* ON A RANGE OF TOP BRAND PRODUCTS

TOSHIBA Britain's Best Selling 28" Dolby Pro-Logic Surround Sound TV with Teletext. 68cm visible screen size. Includes cabinet stand with built-in front speakers. Model 28Z1. Was £899.99. In-store Price £779.99. **BUY NOW PAY JULY '97**

CANDY 1000 Spin Automatic. 15 programmes. 15 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

FREE PRINTER

OLIVETTI #P70C COLOUR BUBBLE INK JET PRINTER. In-store Price £129.99. **SAVE** £150.00.

PACKARD BELL Internet Ready 100MHz Pentium Processor Multimedia PC. 8MB RAM/500MB hard drive. 28.8Kbps fax modem. Quad speed CD-ROM drive. Remote control + radio card. Model 909D. Was £1449.99. **6 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION***

SANYO Portable CD System. 20 track programmable CD. AM/FM radio. Model VMX480. Was £299.99. In-store Price £199.99. **18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION***

AIWA CD Mini Hi-Fi. 40 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £189.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £40.00.

STOVES

50cm Slot-in Gas Cooker. Finished in Brass and Raging Green. Includes separate oven and grill. Also available in Blue or Red. NEWHOME 502GS. Was £549.99. **SALE PRICE** £449.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

SALE LAUNDRY & DISHWASHERS SAVE UP TO £160

WHITE KNIGHT 7th Tumble Dryer. 2 heat settings. Compact size. Model 711. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £199.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

CANDY 1000 Spin Automatic. 15 programmes. 15 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

CREDA 1000 Spin Automatic. 15 programmes. 15 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

HOOVER 1100 Spin Automatic. 15 programmes. 15 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

HOTPOINT 1000 Spin Automatic. 15 programmes. 15 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

AEG 1000 Spin Automatic. 15 programmes. 15 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

BOSCH 1000 Spin Automatic. 15 programmes. 15 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

HOOVER 1100 Spin Automatic. 15 programmes. 15 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

EUROTECH 1100 Spin Automatic. 15 programmes. 15 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

HOOVER 1100 Spin Automatic. 15 programmes. 15 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

BUY NOW PAY UP TO 18 MONTHS LATER ON A RANGE OF DOMESTIC APPLIANCES

CANDY Full Size 'EcoSystem' Dishwasher. 4 programmes. 4 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

BOSCH Full Size 'EcoSystem' Dishwasher. 4 programmes. 4 programmes. Model C101. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

REFRIGERATION SAVE UP TO £130

NOVA SCOTIA 5.1 cu.ft. Fridge. Adjustable thermostat. Model N1400. In-store Price £199.99. **WHILE STOCKS LAST**

NOVA SCOTIA 5.1 cu.ft. Fridge. Adjustable thermostat. Model N1400. In-store Price £199.99. **WHILE STOCKS LAST**

FRIGIDAIRE 5.4 cu.ft. Fridge. Adjustable thermostat. Model F1400. In-store Price £199.99. **WHILE STOCKS LAST**

LEIC 5.4 cu.ft. Fridge. Adjustable thermostat. Model F1400. In-store Price £199.99. **WHILE STOCKS LAST**

BEKO 5.4 cu.ft. Fridge. Adjustable thermostat. Model F1400. In-store Price £199.99. **WHILE STOCKS LAST**

CANDY 5.4 cu.ft. Fridge. Adjustable thermostat. Model F1400. In-store Price £199.99. **WHILE STOCKS LAST**

HOOVER 5.4 cu.ft. Fridge. Adjustable thermostat. Model F1400. In-store Price £199.99. **WHILE STOCKS LAST**

VACUUMS SAVE UP TO HALF PRICE WITH VOUCHER

CARLTON Cylinder Vacuum. 1100 watt motor. Model CV1015. Was £49.99. **SALE PRICE** £29.99. **SAVE** £20.00.

ELECTROLUX Cylinder Vacuum. 1100 watt motor. Model CV1015. Was £49.99. **SALE PRICE** £29.99. **SAVE** £20.00.

DYSON Dual Cyclone Cylinder Vacuum. 1100 watt motor. Model DC01. Was £149.99. **SALE PRICE** £99.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

DYSON Dual Cyclone Cylinder Vacuum. 1100 watt motor. Model DC01. Was £149.99. **SALE PRICE** £99.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

SALE CD HI-FI SYSTEMS SAVE UP TO £50

JVC Ultra Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi. 2 piece component system. Full logic. Auto-reverse cassette deck. 14 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £199.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

MATSUI CD Hi-Fi with Teletext. Full logic. Auto-reverse cassette deck. 14 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £199.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

AIWA Ultra Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi. 2 piece component system. Full logic. Auto-reverse cassette deck. 14 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £199.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

AIWA Ultra Compact CD Micro Hi-Fi. 2 piece component system. Full logic. Auto-reverse cassette deck. 14 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £199.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

SALE PCs SAVE UP TO £200 PLUS FREE COLOUR PRINTER WITH SELECTED PCs

ACER ACROS Pentium 100MHz. 8MB RAM. 500MB hard drive. Model P100. Was £899.99. **SALE PRICE** £699.99. **SAVE** £200.00.

COMPAQ Pentium 100MHz. 8MB RAM. 500MB hard drive. Model P100. Was £899.99. **SALE PRICE** £699.99. **SAVE** £200.00.

PACKARD BELL Pentium 100MHz. 8MB RAM. 500MB hard drive. Model P100. Was £899.99. **SALE PRICE** £699.99. **SAVE** £200.00.

APRICOAT Pentium 100MHz. 8MB RAM. 500MB hard drive. Model P100. Was £899.99. **SALE PRICE** £699.99. **SAVE** £200.00.

SALE COOKING SAVE UP TO £200

FRIGIDAIRE 50cm Slot-in Electric Cooker. Single oven with glass door. Solid plate hob. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

PARKINSON COWAN 50cm Slot-in Electric Cooker. Single oven with glass door. Solid plate hob. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

CREDA 50cm Slot-in Electric Cooker. Single oven with glass door. Solid plate hob. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

TEKA 50cm Slot-in Electric Cooker. Single oven with glass door. Solid plate hob. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

SALE BUILT-IN COOKING SAVE UP TO £80

TEKA 50cm Built-in Electric Cooker. Single oven with glass door. Solid plate hob. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

TEKA 50cm Built-in Electric Cooker. Single oven with glass door. Solid plate hob. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

TEKA 50cm Built-in Electric Cooker. Single oven with glass door. Solid plate hob. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

TEKA 50cm Built-in Electric Cooker. Single oven with glass door. Solid plate hob. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

SALE PORTABLE HI-FI SAVE UP TO £40

MATSUI Portable Hi-Fi. 20 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £149.99. **SALE PRICE** £109.99. **SAVE** £40.00.

SONY Portable Hi-Fi. 20 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £149.99. **SALE PRICE** £109.99. **SAVE** £40.00.

AIWA Portable Hi-Fi. 20 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £149.99. **SALE PRICE** £109.99. **SAVE** £40.00.

AIWA Portable Hi-Fi. 20 watts (RMS) per channel. Model LCA300. Was £149.99. **SALE PRICE** £109.99. **SAVE** £40.00.

SALE CAMCORDERS - UP TO 18 MONTHS INTEREST FREE OPTION* SAVE UP TO A TOTAL OF £100

CANON 4-Head Camcorder with 40x Digital Zoom. 1/4" Hi-Fi stereo sound. Image stabilisation. Model V10. Was £749.99. **SALE PRICE** £649.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

PANASONIC 4-Head Camcorder with 40x Digital Zoom. 1/4" Hi-Fi stereo sound. Image stabilisation. Model V10. Was £749.99. **SALE PRICE** £649.99. **SAVE** £100.00.

SEGA SATURN 6 GAME & ACCESSORY PACK. Includes Sega Saturn console, 6 games, and accessory pack. Total Separate Selling Price £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £199.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

PLAYSTATION 2 GAME & ACCESSORY PACK. Includes PlayStation 2 console, 2 games, and accessory pack. Total Separate Selling Price £249.99. **SALE PRICE** £199.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

SALE MICROWAVES SAVE UP TO £70

TEKA 50cm Built-in Microwave. 1000 watts. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

TEKA 50cm Built-in Microwave. 1000 watts. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

TEKA 50cm Built-in Microwave. 1000 watts. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

TEKA 50cm Built-in Microwave. 1000 watts. Model CP1400. Was £199.99. **SALE PRICE** £149.99. **SAVE** £50.00.

SALE LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT

Currys Britain's Biggest Electrical Retailer. All Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening. Ring 0181-220 0200 for details of your nearest Currys store.

Currys Voucher Specials

Currys Voucher Specials

Currys Voucher Specials

Currys Voucher Specials

Currys Britain's Biggest Electrical Retailer. All Superstores offer easy parking, late night shopping and Sunday opening. Ring 0181-220 0200 for details of your nearest Currys store.

Currys Voucher Specials

Currys Voucher Specials

Currys Voucher Specials

Currys Voucher Specials



THE INDEPENDENT

ONE CANADA SQUARE, CANARY WHARF, LONDON E14 5DL ♦ TEL: 0171-293 2000 ♦ FAX: 0171-293 2435 / 0171-345 2435

MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

Private lives, public debate: The growing moral maze

A newspaper editor, said one great journalist, is a man who separates the wheat from the chaff – and prims the chaff. I hope that in this respect at least, *The Independent* has been thoroughly badly edited throughout 1996. But if the chaff content is ever too high, then I have no excuse; we have had great stories to report and great writers to report them. Our stropky platoon of columnists have delighted and infuriated you in equal measure, which seems about right. We have taken and used some all-time great photographs and introduced new artists, including the fine, sinewy drawing of Chris Priestley (see below). I have made many changes to the newspaper; and even on the law of averages, it is possible that some of them have been for the better.

But enough of the pottery. What about its contents, the story of 1996? What stands out from the year, and what lessons might we draw?

Politics itself has been dominated by Europe, and by the political decay of the Major administration. Instant historical analysis can be hilariously wrong; we should leave it a few decades to judge the effect of Britain's anti-Continental drift. But it looks as if in 1996 our political class concluded that European union, on the federal model championed by France and Germany, was not for them.

That is a sweeping judgement. But the anti-Brussels fever has spread beyond the Conservative Party and infects much more than the single-currency question. Try to imagine a Tony Blair-led government confronting the hard choices – swapping sterling for the euro, or acquiescing in more majority voting. Even if the Conservatives are in political shreds at the time, he will note the raucous and sentimental patriotism of the press and the self-righteous xenophobia aflame on the right of politics; and he will back off. The Tory anti-federalists may well lose their party the election; but I suspect they have already prevented Britain becoming a full participant in the kind of complete union planned for decades in Paris, Bonn and Brussels.

Withdrawal, which only a couple of years ago was a taboo topic, is now openly discussed by Conservative right-wingers and by the hectoring classes who have signed up for Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party, or the UK Independence Party. "Re-negotiate" is the code word for an entirely new relationship with the EU. Unless the union radically changes from within, that seems likely to mean leaving it: even John Major has flirted, however ambiguously, with the idea of a breakdown in British-EU relations. We may come to that, though the decay of the Major administration has probably exaggerated the strength of the "antis" – they are more divided and less numerous than their press support suggests.

The Independent was founded 10 years ago as a firmly pro-European paper. We have agonised and argued about all this; in many ways, we would love to have been the paper that championed the single currency in the teeth of the John Bull brigade. (John Bulls, it should be added, who live abroad and are against the EU in part because they fear that it might try to regulate properly their global businesses.)

But there are deep democratic problems about having a pan-European economic policy. Like: what happens if a democratically elected national government wants to go a different way, and

is ordered not to? Like: how would people react in recessions when informed that the austerity policy which cost them a job or a pay cut, came not from elected governments but from a bank? Until there are answers here, we finally decided that monetary union could do more to wreck the union than to build it. This puts us in a minority of a minority; we are part of the pro-European minority in the media, and a minority anti-EMU voice in that. Too bad: the great lack in British and Continental politics has been a strongly pro-European voice which is insistent about democracy, asks for clarity and believes in the rights of

regions and small nations as well as big ones. In a small way, *The Independent* has tried to address this by arguing for a European confederacy, a less ambitious but more tightly drawn, constitution-based political body, overseeing a Europe united by free trade and liberal, democratic values, rather than vague aspirations and directives.

That kind of union is not an impossible dream. The turmoil produced by the march to monetary union, in Britain and elsewhere, may produce a modified and gentler union. If it doesn't, it will surely spawn another generation of aggressively nationalist politics, here and on the Continent.

That is unequivocally the last thing Europe needs. The slow falling-apart of British Conservative government under the pressures of the EU programme has not been an enjoyable or edifying spectacle. Granted, it has been more amusing than watching paint dry, or planks warp. But only just. The depression has not been lightened by stories about sleaze, parliamentary arrogance and political incompetence. The non-headline story of Parliament during the year is, however, the mood and rules governing MPs' behaviour. The Scott report was not properly responded to by the Government – people hung on who should

have gone – but that and the Nolan Commission have changed the political weather. Only a few of the more arrogant and out-of-touch MPs still think they don't have a trust problem with voters. The new rules and the sternness with which David Willetts was treated by other MPs are perhaps a sign of the House slowly coming to order.

Such guarded optimism can't be applied to the BSE affair. As a study in the conduct of public policy, it will go down in history alongside the poll tax, and is about as cheering. The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food was acting both as a political lobby group for the beef industry and as its health watchdog: these proved incompatible. Maff doesn't deserve to survive what followed. The ministerial response was slow, evasive and at times chaotic. Departments wrangled in public. Newspapers led a public panic; there was too little reasoned and detailed argument. Everyone appealed to "science" and discovered that science was human, and had opinions too. Britain was quickly isolated in the EU and a mixture of pride and timidity meant that the fast, drastic decisions which might have limited the damage were fudged. And the national opportunity to look afresh at intensive farming and ask whether there isn't another, better way to produce safe food seems to have been missed.

Another thing that struck me forcibly is how closely connected our private lives and public debates are becoming. Increasingly, in *The Independent*, as elsewhere, "news" isn't only a crashing plane or a politician's views; it is also about lifestyle, behaviour and individual choices. In the office, our liveliest arguments tend not to be left versus right, but between social conservatives and libertarians, on issues such as censorship, morality, privacy, drugs and the new bio-technologies. Here, as with the more conventional issues, we have analysed and argued and I'm not ashamed of the results.

For, throughout the year past and, no doubt, through the year ahead, we have been struggling in the most savagely competitive newspaper market – the toughest in the world. We have faced Rupert Murdoch's price-cutting – an attempt to close us down, whatever his minions say – giveaway offers and awesome advertising campaigns. Privately, senior Tory and Labour politicians agree that Murdoch is using business tactics that wouldn't be allowed in other countries. But they are too frightened of his power to intervene. We will manage without them. Our core readership has stuck with us, forgiven me the mistakes of a novice editor and kept up a lively correspondence with our writers. The year ahead will bring the most important election Britain has faced for very many years. And that means that it will also bring ranting and obfuscation, xenophobia and propaganda, huffing and a certain amount of hysteria. We are a young newspaper. But the coming year, like the past decade, will be a time when Britain needs a decent, liberal, pro-European and above all independent newspaper, one with an open mind and no political baggage. I may be a little biased but it seems to be that this would be a less interesting and less informed country without *The Independent*. I hope that, as you sip your Boxing Day soda water, you think so too.

Andrew Marr



Sin, myth and the crusaders

In the aftermath of Dunblane and the killing of Philip Lawrence, moral troopers shook the nation. But empty moralising is no substitute for real politics, writes Polly Toynbee

The scene in the Dunblane gym cast its long dark shadow all down this year. We may never have seen those children scattered in heaps like blood-soaked dolls, but the image was burned into our consciousness in Technicolor. Moral tremors shook the nation and that fear entered into all discourse and policies. Echoes of Dunblane haunted other crimes: the kicking to death of a Corby girl by two 13-year-olds, the rural slaughter of Josie Russell's mother and sister, child abuse uncovered on a huge scale (much of it exposed by this newspaper), the machete attack on a nursery school teddy bears' picnic and the murder of the headmaster Philip Lawrence. It all looked like a world gone madly awry and it drove us half mad this year.

And yet Dunblane was an event without meaning or significance. It told us nothing about society, ourselves or our morals. A staring-eyed paedophile misfit with a hideous grin, Thomas Hamilton was useless even as a symbol of latter-day moral decadence. The human gene pool always has and always will throw up such madmen, so his pathetic life and death signified nothing new.

Looking for meaning, some wondered if his very insignificance in an uncaring alienated urban society made him do it. But even that thought led nowhere. Dunblane turned out to be a remarkably good society, close-knit, a genuine community that did what close-knit communities do with dangerous looking weirdos – marked him out and shunned him. That is part of what identifies them as good communities in the first place. That left nothing to blame but the inanimate gun and the knife. All in all, the aftermath of Dunblane has been devoid of lessons.

In Philip Lawrence's murder, we did

have the makings of a parable. But of what kind? Was it a story of old-fashioned good against modern evil? Or was it the respectable world attacked by the savage growing underclass? A brave and good headmaster running to protect a weak pupil is stabbed through the heart by a young thug who bears not just the mark of Cain, but of every single attribute of modern social decay. Learco Chindamo had it all: illegitimate son of a convicted Italian mafia man and a hopeless Filipina, living with his mother and her dead-beat unemployed lover lost in an alcoholic daze. Learco's only ambition was to make his mark on the mean streets: he has Never Should Have Been Born. What's He Doing in Our Country? and Modern Youth From Hell written all over him in banner headlines.

In the other corner stand the Lawrences, the ideal traditional family – dignified and good. Frances Lawrence's moving manifesto touched every chord, with words of both moral and social admonition. She saw Chindamo as a true son of modern Britain but that also meant a son of the deprived underclass that grew and multiplied in the Tory years.

All this sent the politicians off into a moral spin. Tony Blair wore his Christianity like a fluorescent Jesus Army band on his sleeve. Not to be outdone, John Major, until now admirably terse on the question of his own religion, suddenly found the kernel of his wizen Christian soul too. None of this was an edifying spectacle. Rather,

it was a shamelessly self-serving encouragement of the mood of panic.

The family-values tumble rolled on. The frustration for the moralists is that there is so little practical policy to apply family values to. There is agitated talk

of tinkering with the tax and benefits system to favour marriage, but few really think that will roll back the sexual revolution. That leaves curiously marginal oddities such as the films *Crash* and *Lolita* to bear the full weight of political and

tabloid wrath. Virginia Bottomley, the Secretary of State for National Heritage, saw her chance to join in when she summoned programme controllers to listen to her sermon on violence in television.

But by and large, the deafening decibels of newspaper moralising are all mouth and mercifully little trousers – so far. The discerning *Independent* reader may have missed the relentless moral essays in the right-wing press but all year night-wing commentators have worked themselves into a frenzy. In a great turbulent stew, they brew together crime, violence, divorce, single motherhood, idleness on the dole, social security fraud, failing schools and wild children. Society seen through their glass darkly lurches on the edge of the abyss.

Two royal divorces and a new no-fault divorce law only seemed to confirm the Jeremiahs' worst forebodings. Marriage, they wailed, is the primal building block of society and now it is tumbling down around us like the walls of the temple.

Does all this matter? Yes, it does. For we live as much in our heads on myth and imagination as we live in the real world. If through mendacious reporting we create the illusion that we actually live in a worse world than we really do, then we subject ourselves to needless unhappiness and anxiety. Worse still, if we make the wrong diagnosis, we will take the wrong medicine and make problems worse, not better. So the moralists, the Government and, alas, the Labour Par-

ty too, choose to diagnose a serious case of near-terminal sin. The prescription? A huge prison-building programme at colossal cost and a soaring prison population. It doesn't work? Then double the dose and treble it until it does.

For the true causes of crime lie deep in the underclass. It is an age-old habit of those in the pulpit to dredge down there in the gutter for stories of terrible sin with which to give moral frights to the faithful in the pews. They like to pretend the exceptional problems of the poor are a sign of sin running all through society. But the correlation between the growing relative deprivation at the bottom and the soaring crime rate of recent years is blindingly obvious. Right across Europe the crime rate mirrors the boom-and-bust patterns of each economy – crime goes up in bad times and dips in good times. The Jeremiahs, however, prefer to tell us that the gap between rich and poor has nothing to do with it – liberal values are to blame and we are reaping the whirlwind of the pernicious Sixties.

This year that age-old moral debate on the causes of crime reached a crescendo. No doubt it will reverberate wearily through the 1997 election. Empty moralising has become a substitute for real politics because morals are cheap while proper policies cost money. The question is whether after the election all this will be put behind us, or will the moral mood rumble on and demand real and punishing action, however useless and irrelevant? The opinion poll evidence is that the great bulk of the population remains, and indeed becomes ever more liberal in its sexual attitudes – on divorce, cohabitation, abortion and homosexuality. On crime it will depend on the quality of leadership we get from the new government.



The image of Dunblane is burned into our minds Photograph: Brian Harris

A black and white photograph showing Mandy Aulwood on the right and Paul Hudson on the left, with test tubes containing frozen embryos in the foreground. The image is grainy and high-contrast. The test tubes are in the foreground, showing several embryos. The couple is standing behind them, looking towards the camera. The background is dark and indistinct.

The word they have coined is xenotransplantation, from the Greek *xenos* meaning strange, different or foreign.

Next month a report from a committee chaired by Ian Kennedy, professor of medical law and ethics at King's College, London, will recommend that xenotransplants should be permitted; that pigs' organs – the animals' hearts and kidneys – can be surgically placed inside human beings.

The Nuffield Council on Bioethics made the same recommendation earlier this year. The Government, however, has chosen to leak the Kennedy report to indicate that ministers were giving some consideration to the possibility that xenotransplants might allow retro-

viruses to cross from pigs to people. These viruses cause few problems to their natural hosts, but can cause havoc when they cross from one species to another. HIV, the retrovirus which can lead to Aids, is often assumed to have crossed to humans from a species of monkey.

The ideal animal to supply organs to humans would be the chimpanzee, whose DNA differs from ours by less than 2 per cent. But the Nuffield committee suggested that, on ethical grounds, we could not use apes and monkeys for transplant, because primates are too close to humankind. Yet such moral scruples, they concluded, need not apply to pigs.

A similar issue was raised

trying to have the law changed to allow Diane Blood to be impregnated with sperm taken from her dying husband.

Traditional British prejudices cloud the issue here. The sympathy quotient for Mrs. Blood was boosted by the "one-of-us" factor. She was an articulate middle-class advertising executive. Contrast that with the case of Mandy Allwood who conceived octuplets while on fertility treatment. The controversy surrounding her refusal to undergo the selective abortions her doctors recommended, and the subsequent death of all the foetuses, was reinforced by her deal with the publicist Max Clifford and the *News of the World*.

Ms Allwood was widely deemed an unsuitable candidate for fertility treatment in the first place — she had had a child already, and an abortion, was not in a stable relationship, did not tell her partner she was having the treatment, and had sex when doctors told her not to. Such a judgement operated entirely on unstated assumptions about how society should decide who should get fertility treatment.

Unstated assumptions and inconsistencies bedevil the entire bioethics debate. One of the most alarming examples lies in the developments on euthanasia this year.

The parents of two-year-old Thomas Creedon edged into new territory when they decided to go to the High Court to ask for permission to stop feeding their brain-damaged son. Another, anonymous, couple went further, beginning proceedings to be allowed to administer a lethal injection to their brain-damaged baby whom doctors predicted would die in infancy.

Thomas Creedon died before his case came to court; the other case has yet to be heard. But what the slippage reveals are some unchallenged assumptions about what constitutes a "worthwhile" life.

6 Inconsistencies have bedevilled the bioethics debate

In Britain there are hospitals where – although officials will not publicly acknowledge this – it is impossible for those aged over 70 to get treatment

Perhaps society might be happy to endorse such assumptions. But it is dangerous when they go unarticulated and are therefore never subjected to public challenge.

But choice cannot be all. We have some important moral intuitions about not killing people, about the sacredness of life, about not messing with nature, about our interrelatedness, and our responsibility for one another. If these intuitions were not inherent in our make up, then what is possible and permissible could slide into what is corrected or even inevitable.

The danger is that in leaving such decisions to the individual some important human values may be undermined.

In the case of the surrogate grandmother, we may ask what harm can it do when all are happy? But there are other questions. How would the daughter have felt if her 51-year-old mother had died during the pregnancy? How would they cope if the child were handicapped? Or later abused? What would have happened if a pre-natal scan showed abnormality and the mother wanted to abort but the grandmother disagreed?

Just because nothing went wrong this time is no answer. Moral responsibility requires us to think beyond the immediate.

The argument against surrogacy is that it makes women vulnerable — poor women to economic exploitation and grandmothers, too, to emotional manipulation. To warn us is not to adopt a Luddite position. The risk analysis which the scientists have done on xenotransplantation may indicate that the benefits greatly outweigh the possible harm. Most of us would be content to take expert advice on such matters. But it has to be advice we have to be given the choice to accept or reject. It is not whether we want to eat genetically altered maize. Most importantly that choice has to be an informed one. If it is not we may have to pass that choice to a higher authority.

The questions which such cases aroused generated more heat than light. And yet they ought to have been simple enough to formulate. Is it safe? Is it natural? Is it legal? Is it kind? Is it right? And do we have to answer "Yes" to all of those questions before we proceed in such cases?

Some of the cases did not present new issues so much as dramatic old ones in a new way. The case of the woman who wanted rid of one of her twins was significant because it made many of those who back the "pro-choice" position feel uneasy. It confronted them with the essential arbitrariness of abortion, particularly so when it was disclosed that the woman concerned was a middle-class, high-income wife. What had been presented as a poverty issue was exposed as a convenience one.

Other cases presented new moral dilemmas. The expiry of the deadline for the storage of Britain's first frozen embryos faced us with the consequences of a decision made five years ago. There were echoes of the abortion debate in all this: this was human life, but were they human beings?

The new underlying ethical issue of ownership was largely neglected. And without such discussion we may yet face a world where the ownership of genetic material – for example, in the case of the woman in the US who recently conceived and then aborted in order to reproduce foetal material for use in the treatment of her father's Alzheimer's disease.

And all this is set in the context of National Health Service reforms where the internal market has strengthened in the public mind the link between medicine and money, at the expense of a link with morals. Combine that with the growth of our "ruffies" culture in which all unfulfilled desires seem to be seen as an abuse of human rights — and you get the red-tube pioneer Lord Winston

JUMBO
Fun Trunk
Was ~~£14.99~~
Save £2

£12.99

£4.89

FUN TUB
Translucent
Choice of colours
Was ~~£5.79~~ Save £1.10

£7.99

**CURVER
UNIBOX**
Choice of colours
Was £279
Save £1

**TRANSLUCENT
FILE BOX**
Available
in Raspberry,
Jade or Cobalt

Special Purchase
£9.99

TUFF CRATE
Choice of colours
Was ~~£19.99~~ Save £4

£6.99

Special Purchase
£2.99

FOLDING CRATE

£14.99

MR CART
Primary
colours
Was ~~£17.77~~
Save £3

£7.99

ARIZONA TRUNK
Blue or Green
Was ~~£27.99~~ Save £2

JUMBO
Stack A Box
Pack of 3
Choice of
colours

Special Purchase
£17.99

HOME BASE

MONDAY-THURSDAY 8AM - 8PM • FRIDAY 8AM - 9PM • SATURDAY 8AM - 8PM • SUNDAY 10AM - 4PM* • NEW YEAR'S EVE 8AM - 6PM • BOXING DAY AND NEW YEAR'S DAY† 10AM - 6PM

†† Sizes are approximate and not to scale. Merchandise subject to availability. *Stores in Scotland open Sunday 9am-6pm. †Stores in Scotland closed on New Year's Day. Opening times may vary. Please call 0181-208 0200 for details of your nearest store. ††The Mother Christmas cat regime has been observed at 207 stores.

هذه ايامنا الاولى

MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

Infected by mad cows and Europhobes

Blair has been canny, but the Tories dug themselves ever deeper into the mire, says Donald Macintyre

You are a Tory Cabinet minister. You are ambitious. You are spending Christmas at home thinking in deepest privacy of what 1997 will bring.

You look at the opinion polls. What does the phrase "election campaign" make you think about first? Is it (a), the gruelling prospect of three weeks stomping up and down Britain straining every fibre of your body to help secure your party a record fifth term in office against all the odds? Is it (b), a good job at Lazard's or (c), something you would prefer not to think about at all? Or is it (d), another election altogether: the battle for the votes of the Tory party to succeed John Major and become its eighth leader since 1945?

If it's (b) or (c), you've probably got one of those marginal seats which look doomed. If it's (d), you're one of at least half a dozen senior members of the Cabinet, who think that he or she can be leading the party by the end of the year. If it's (a) you're probably John Major. That, in sum, is how bad 1996 was for the party which has governed Britain since 1979. It wasn't the crises themselves, though goodness knows there were enough of those. It was more that this was the year that the economic recovery was finally supposed to translate into votes and didn't.

It's why Tory MPs would discuss the prospect of electoral defeat with an openness, sometimes even with a relish, that has been unknown in any party since Labour was in its darkest days in the early 1980s. It is why some of the brightest stars on what was once thought to have been the left of the party, such as Stephen Dorrell and Malcolm Rifkind, started to court the neo-Thatcherite right wing which they believe will dominate the party after polling day. Perhaps the speech Mr Dorrell made back in May – not long after the Tories lost an awe-inspiring 567 seats in the local elections – will prove, in its own way, a turning point. In it, the Secretary of State for

Health deftly became at once state-shrinker and Euro-sceptic in the same speech, bewilderingly proclaiming that Margaret Thatcher had really been a "one nation" Conservative. By that time of course, most people had already forgotten that in January she herself had wittingly dismissed the term in a speech of her own which decided the recent defection of Emma Nicholson to the Liberal Democrats, but which also managed to be notably unhelpful to Mr Major. Only Ken Clarke, and though he was less public about it, Michael Heseltine, stubbornly refused to trim like this.

More of that in a moment. Consider first the level of Tory indiscipline given that this was the last full year before an election. It was that on issues as disparate as divorce and the sale of MoD homes, large groups of rebellious backbenchers were prepared to flout the iron law that voters distrust divided parties. Against this background perhaps one Tory rebel qualifies as backbencher of the year for being – literal-

Mr Blair had at times little to do than watch the disintegration

ly – on the side of virtue: it was Quentin Davies, who voted against the Government over the Scott arms-to-Iraq report. And it was Mr Davies who helped Parliament to start cleaning up its act with a relentless cross-examination which exposed the untruth at the heart of the testimony by the minister David Willetts against charges that he had been tampering with a quasi-judicial inquiry into sleaze. Mr Davies got precious little thanks for it. But it was his colleagues who were doing the real damage: even as the country absorbed the shock of Dunblane, a majority of Tory MPs on the Home Affairs Select Committee set about trying to

prove that the gun lobby needed appeasing more than the town's stricken parents. This was defiance of electoral gravity on a heroic scale.

But above all, of course, it was Europe that made the disintegration look terminal, that became for so many an issue bigger than party. The coalition of phobes, sceptics and those bullied by both, refused to give up, as Mr Clarke had predicted they would when he agreed in April – despite having seriously contemplated resignation – that any future decision to join EMU would be put to a referendum. In return he secured a deal written in blood that Major would not rule out joining EMU – a deal that the sceptics then set about trying to unravel in a campaign which still isn't over. What's more, the boundaries of the argument changed. Gradually, it became possible to talk about withdrawal from the EU. For this, the catalyst – even more than the fear inspired by Sir James Goldsmith's Referendum Party – was probably the crisis over BSE.

The BSE débâcle became at once the most potent symbol of government incompetence and the crucible on which a muscular new anti-Europeanism was forged on the Tory right. The Government declared a war on Europe it couldn't win – with an Alice in Wonderland policy of non-cooperation which amounted only to vetoing those proposals which it would have previously approved because they did no damage to Britain.

It is tempting simply to blame Mr Major for allowing all this to get out of control. But that fails to give enough credit to Tony Blair. True, Mr Blair had at times to do little more than watch the disintegration. True, also, that he wasn't trouble free in 1996. There were even some symmetries: as Lady Thatcher had undermined Mr Major in January – leaving until October her electoral endorsement of Mr Major – so Lord Callaghan in December gently sniped at the Labour leader in a recent interview in the *New Statesman*.



Slaughter: The BSE débâcle became the most potent symbol of the Government's confusion and incompetence

Photograph: Brian Harris

DEBENHAMS

The Winter
SALE
Starts Tomorrow 8.30am

Shop early for half price bargains
throughout the store
All stores open Sunday 29 December*

THE DIFFERENCE IS
DEBENHAMS

Most offers available in all Debenhams stores including Browns of Chester. Stock subject to availability.
*Scotland starts 26 December. *Except Newcastle and Stevenage.
<http://www.debenhams.co.uk>

Tory antics that redefined the meaning of sleaze

Despite Nolan and Scott, the scandals continued, writes David Aaronovitch

In the early, uncomplicated days of "back to basics", the word "sleaze" came to be associated with banking. The rubric was roughly this: Tory politician banks someone not his wife; is found out and exposed; wife stands by him; ridiculous or even apocryphal detail emerges (toes, telephone calls, Chelsea shirt, woman was 16-year-old researcher, woman was a constituent, woman was man); politician resigns. Prime Minister regrets the trivialisation of politics; archbishop regrets lack of moral lead by politicians.

This was sleaze that required no great effort of intellect or expenditure of time on the part of those who commented upon it (nor indeed, upon the part of those who participated in it). It made good, simple news copy day after day. Alas, it was too good to last. 1996 furnished us with only one ministerial death through fornication, and the minister unsurprisingly resigned before we had time for the toes and the archbishops.

What we had instead was the 1,800 pages of the Scott report into the arms-for-Iraq affair. Published 39 months after the inquiry was set up, the report itself furnished lazy journalists with precious little headline material. This was because the Devil lay not in the accusations against individual ministers, but in the detailed picture of how policy is formed, altered, applied and communicated in Britain.

What Scott attacked was the culture of secrecy and the lack of adequate constitutional restraints on the executive. Important stuff, but not sexy. What was just as revealing as

the report itself was the way the Government chose to handle its publication. By giving the opposition three-and-a-half hours in a guarded basement of the Department of Trade to read the report before it was unveiled in the House, and by using that time themselves to produce a spin upon it (a spin later condemned by Scott) suggesting that they had been completely exonerated, the Government behaved arrogantly and shabbily.

It worked, too. In the debate 10 days after the publication – and despite a spectacular speech by Labour's Robin Cook, the Government lost the argument, but won the vote – with a majority of one. And that was that.

With Scott out of the way, we all took a sleaze break until the party conferences. MPs used the time to defy their party leaders, public opinion and the famous rumblings of the moralistic press to vote themselves a substantial pay increase. No strings (such as a reduction in the number of MPs, or evaluation of the work they did) were attached.

Then, as autumn fell, the sudden abandonment by the Tory MP Neil Hamilton of his libel suit against the *Guardian* (arising out of the cash-for-questions affair) brought two new names to all our lips. The first was that of the granddaddy of Westminster lobbyists, Ian Greer. A man of great and (according to some) inexplicable generosity, Mr Greer had sent largish sums of money in the direction of Mr Hamilton

and others – for no particularly good reason, he told the world.

Embarrassed MPs of all political colours were suddenly discovered to be involuntary recipients of Mr Greer's unsolicited largesse. The Labour health spokesman Chris Smith, for instance, had had 200 notes delivered to his local party to assist in fighting a general election campaign. Why had this money been donated? No one

In the early days, the word was linked only with banking

knew. What had Mr Greer (a lifelong Conservative) hoped to get for his outlay? Nothing at all: some gave to Oxfam, some gave to Chris Smith.

The second name was that of the cerebral MP for Havant, David Willetts, whose note – written when a junior whip – suggesting that the Tory chairman of the House of Commons privileges committee investigating Mr Hamilton "wanted advice", indicated government intervention in the workings of an independent body.

Mr Willetts, like William Waldegrave (criticised by Scott) an intellectual sharing a vessel with the rough deckhands of politics, seems to have made three mistakes. The first was to be seduced by the assumption that there was no

real problem in whips talking to committee chairmen about the progress of such sensitive inquiries. This assumption is a very low-level and minor form of corruption, and one that typifies a party that has been in power too long.

The second was to have written it down. And the third was to have attempted to explain it away with a schoolboyish evasion that insulted the intelligence of at least one of the Tories on the committee, Quentin Davies, who had voted against the Government over Scott. Mr Willetts' famous phrase of self-exculpation, that "want" had meant "stood in need of" (as in the Austen phrase "must be in want of a wife") rather than "required", demonstrated a rather desperate dishonesty.

Meanwhile, the Government showed what it had learnt from the handling of the Scott report, by leaking both the contents of the Cullen report on the massacre at Dunblane, and its proposed legislative response, while once more denying the Opposition a chance to examine Cullen until the day of its publication.

And so we limp towards the general election. Aspects of Lord Nolan's 1995 report have been implemented (notably the revised register of interests), but Parliament functions no better than it did, the executive is largely unscrutinised, and those who hold power are obstinately determined to hang on to it. From where I sit, day after day, it is hard to see anything other than crushing defeat – followed by the utmost pressure on a new administration – achieving any change.

MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

The bombs that blew away peace in Ulster

Euphoria turned to dismay with the return of terrorist bombings, writes David McKittrick

It has truly been an *annus horribilis* for Northern Ireland, an awful, dispiriting year. 1996 opened with an IRA ceasefire and the possibility of real talks; it closes with the Government and the republicans at loggerheads, and more bombs feared at any moment.

Half a year's worth of political talks, says Sinn Féin, have proved almost entirely unproductive, including even more cynicism in an already pessimistic population. The joy of peace has been replaced by the fear of more war.

And yet it is still possible to hear, in republican and other circles, people saying in their flat Belfast monotone: "It's over." It is certainly a tense and dangerous time; there is, almost certainly, more death and destruction to come; yet overall the sense is still that the

it killed an Irish detective and blew up Manchester city centre. In July, it had 10 tonnes of explosives seized in London; in October, it set off two car bombs inside the army Northern Ireland headquarters at Lisburn, County Antrim.

A soldier died in the Lisburn attack, no one died in Manchester, but in each case it was only good fortune which prevented large-scale loss of life. The Lisburn bombings in particular were aimed at causing as many deaths as possible.

Yet it is also clear that during 1996 the IRA was fighting, in its terms, only half a war, maintaining a level of activity which fell far short of its full capacity for mayhem. People have died and destruction has been caused, yet the terrorists did not crank the conflict up to pre-1994 ceasefire levels.

The signs are that this restricted level of activity is intended to seed a political message. The republicans sent an explicit message to London via John Hume: the proposition that the ceasefire would be restored if immediate negotiations were guaranteed.

The SDLP leader met the IRA within weeks of the Docklands bomb. Within a few months he and Gerry Adams had put together "Hume-Adams Mark 2," a draft formulation to be taken to John Major. Mr Hume shuttled back and forth between Mr Adams and Mr Major, and in July, the Prime Minister gave Mr Hume the terms of a possible re-statement. In October, Mr Hume gave Mr Major another re-formulation; a week later, Mr Major replied to it.

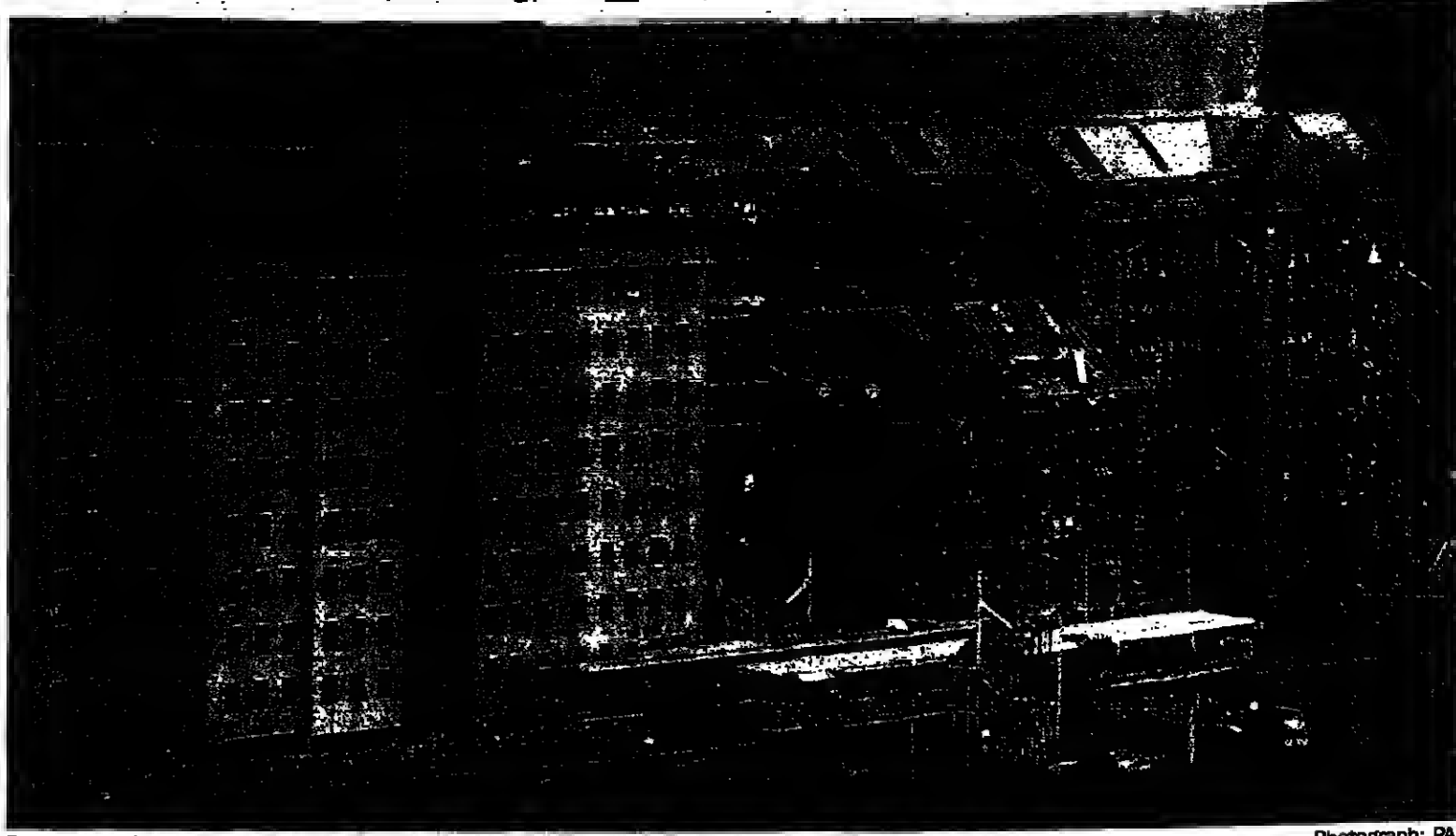
It did not offer the republicans immediate entry into all-party talks, stipulating instead that any new ceasefire must be followed by an indefinite monitoring period. On 28 November, Mr Major published his reply, and a week ago confirmed this was his "last definitive word on the subject before the election". This seems to have in effect closed the negotiation.

Opinions will forever vary on whether the Prime Minister's

attitude was dictated by high-minded considerations of national security and protection of the democratic process, or by a rather more ignoble desire not to antagonise right-wing backbenchers and Unionist MPs.

But the real surprise was not that the republican overture had been turned down, but that it had been made in the first place, despite the high risk of failure. This suggests that the republicans - like the rest of nationalist Ireland - believe the way ahead is not through restarting war, but a revival of the peace process.

The IRA ceasefire ended in 1996, but the peace process provided a model for an exit from the troubles. This is the difference between now and the 1970s and 1980s: in those days, violence seemed literally without end. Today, despite the bombs, there is an assumption that it will, after the election, be tried again; that there is a faint light discernible at the end of the tunnel; and that it is not illogical to be a short-term pessimist and a medium-term optimist.



Dangerous times: South Quay, in Docklands, east London, was shattered by an IRA explosion in February

Photograph: PA

There is a faint light at the end of the tunnel

troubles are moving towards their end.

It is impossible to disprove the opposite theory, which is that the troubles are endless and the future holds not only eternal deadlock but perpetual violence too. Yet even this terrible year had in it what can be seen as signs of hope for medium-term prospects.

They were, admittedly, small enough signs, and they were eclipsed by the many setbacks. The year opened well enough, just a month after the near-catastrophic visit to Belfast by Bill Clinton, when the IRA ceasefire still held. But on Friday 9 February the IRA blew up Docklands, east London, killing two men, and euphoria was replaced by dismay.

The year was punctuated by violence. Among other attacks, the IRA tried to blow up Hammersmith bridge, in west London, in April, and in June

Men plumb the depths of bad behaviour

Jack O'Sullivan relates a chronicle of atrocity, sin and lies

Let's face it: 1996 looked like a bad year for British males. Rather than a chronicle of great achievement it seemed to mark the descent of man.

The lowest point was Thomas Hamilton and the killings in Dunblane. Theo Horrett Campbell attacked a group of toddlers with a 2ft machine. These events further raised public anxiety about the safety of children with men. So did the news earlier this month that one-third of Britain's police forces were investigating allegations of abuse by paedophiles in their children's homes. That's men, again.

Euro 96 offered some relief from men behaving badly, a temporary boost to those who keep faith in male heroism. Victory against the Netherlands, dignity in a narrow defeat by Germany and the elegance of Paul Gascoigne's great goal against Scotland were reminders of when men could feel proud. And then Gazza blew it. He beat up his wife, Cheryl, and reminded us of the modern shame attached to maleness.

He was not the only hero to tumble. Until "Randy Roddy" hit the headlines in September after running off with a divorced woman, he was the much-admired Roderick Wright, Roman Catholic Bishop of Argyll and the Isles, a model of male celibacy and trustworthiness. Then it transpired that he had another mistress, who had borne a son, never publicly acknowledged by the bishop.

And the other male figureheads? Prince Charles, the man who would lead the rest of British men, looked out of touch and out of date, distant from his children and alienated from his society as he divorced his wife. As for his father, Prince Philip, did not seem even to understand why the rest of us were so upset about handbags after the atrocities of Dunblane.

image of decline. And the Royal College of Nursing further elaborated the picture of men as pathetic inadequates when it reported last August that when men live without women, they eat rubbish, drink excessively and smoke too much. As a result, they die sooner. In short, take away nannies and men end up with one foot in the grave.

So men have a problem with the way the lead their lives - and it causes difficulties for everyone else. But the biggest problem in 1996 was their silence. On an individual level, many are experimenting with new ways of working, of being parents, of being masculine. But, unlike the days when feminism set its agenda, they are talking little to each other about what they are doing.

There is dearth of leadership. It was not possible in 1996 to name a single significant male public figure who articulated a fresh vision for men, a new dignified, useful and satisfying way to define themselves. Thinking men abdicated that responsibility, preferring to focus their energy on other forms of politics. What does our male-dominated Parliament have to say about the nature of men? Nothing. MPs and other male public figures can speak about Labour and the Tories, about religion and foreign affairs. But not about themselves as men.

So women filled the vacuum and, as they have done for two decades, told the story of men in 1996. Good for them. Not so useful for men. The picture that prevailed was inevitably stereotypical rather than innovative, partial rather than complete, reflecting a female rather than a male perspective. And its dominant images - abusive men, feckless fathers, criminal boys - were unrelentingly negative.

In 1997, men should start telling their own story.

COMET SALE NOW ON

PLUS EXTRA SAVINGS 3 DAYS ONLY

WHIRLPOOL
9.6 GROSS CUBIC FT FRIDGE FREEZER
• 5.7 cu ft gross fridge capacity
• 4.1 cu ft gross freezer capacity
• Automatic fridge defrost • Fast freeze facility
• 2 salad crispers • Reversible doors
Model ART7791, was £289.99
Previously £299.99 sale £249.99

VOUCHER SAVE
£249.99 £150
LOWER THAN SALE PRICE - 3 DAYS ONLY

INDESIT
1200 SPIN WASHING MACHINE
• 800-1000 sp • 11 p wash cap
• 16 program wash • 100°C wash
• Temperature • 40°C wash
• Economy wash, Model W1063
was £399.99 sale £279.99

VOUCHER SAVE
£249.99 £150
LOWER THAN SALE PRICE - 3 DAYS ONLY

KENWOOD TOUCH CONTROL
MICROWAVE OVEN WITH GRILL
• 850 watts i.e.c. • 60 cu ft capacity
• 1000 watts grill • 9 grill dishes
• Clock timer
Model KM1500T, was £139.99
Previously £149.99 sale £109.99

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET
VOUCHER SAVE
£109.99 £110
LOWER THAN SALE PRICE - 3 DAYS ONLY

NO CLAIM MONEY BACK 5-YEAR WARRANTY
For real peace of mind, a single premium payment guarantees five years' comprehensive cover against product breakdown. If, after five years, you've made no claim, you can get all your warranty money back in full.

SAVE UP TO £120 ON LAUNDRY & DISHWASHERS

HOTPOINT
1000 SPIN WASHING MACHINE
500-1000 spin/110 wash fast
Aquasave wash system
20 programme/100°C wash
wash/100°C wash
Model CWD1010 was £399.99 previously £499.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£379.99 £120
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

CRUSADER REVERSE ACTION TUMBLER DRYER
6.50 drying load
2 drying temperatures
Final cool tumble
Model SD717 was £129.99 previously £189.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£79.99 £50
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

TRICITY BENDIX
1000 SPIN WASHING MACHINE
1000-1000 spin/110 wash fast
1100 wash load/110 drying load
15 programme/100°C wash option
Front and back, Model CWD1010 was £419.99 previously £499.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£399.99 £100
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

ZANUSSI FULL SIZE DISHWASHER
Aquasave wash system
12 place settings/6 programmes
Built-in "Electronic" control
adjustable spray arm wash
temperature, Model DW227 was £429.99 previously £519.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£419.99 £100
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

SAVE UP TO £130 ON REFRIGERATION

LEC 4.5 GROSS CUBIC FT LARGER FRIDGE
3 shelves/adjustable thermostat
Automatic defrost/with
interior compartments door
Model LFR04L, was £199.99
Previously £179.99

SALE SAVE
£149.99 £30
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

ZANUSSI 4.5 GROSS CUBIC FT UPRIGHT FREEZER
4 freezer compartments
4 star freezer rating/Freeze
facility/Adjustable thermostat
Reversible door, Model ZVC45 was £259.99 previously £299.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£249.99 £50
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

HOTPOINT 1200 GROSS CUBIC FT FROST-FREE
1200 GROSS CUBIC FT
7.2 cu ft gross fridge capacity
4.8 cu ft gross freezer capacity
Automatic fridge defrost
Superior 40°C wash
Model SD717, was £279.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£599.99 £130
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

SAVE UP TO £250 ON COOKERS

BEILLING ELECTRIC COOKER
5000 watts/6000 watts oven
Oven/Grill/Boil/Steam
Programmer for both ovens
Glass/ceramic cook tops
Model D25, was £149.99

BUY NOW PAY 12 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£699.99 £250
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

STOVES GAS COOKER
5000 watts/6000 watts oven
4000 watts/6000 watts oven
4000 watts/6000 watts oven
Model PANACHE 5000L, was £399.99 sale £279.99

SALE SAVE
£399.99 £80
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

SAVE UP TO 50% ON CLEANERS

DYSON CYCLONE CYLINDER CLEANER
1000 watts suction power
Unique Cyclone system
Dual Cyclone technology
Unique star hugging design
Superior air flow/On-board
tools, Model DC22, was £189.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£189.99 £10
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

HOOVER CYLINDER CLEANER
1200 watts suction power
On-board tools for easy access
Hygienic bag removal
CORD REMOVAL
Model SC164 ALPINA, was £169.99

SALE HALF PRICE
£79.99

PANASONIC UPRIGHT CLEANER
700 watts suction power
On-board tools/10-in-1
cleaning/Automatic carpet-roller
adjuster/Outpost "air" indicator
Model MC24-1, was £159.99

SALE HALF PRICE
£79.99
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

ELECTROLUX WIDE TRACK UPRIGHT CLEANER
1200 watts power
Extra wide head for faster
cleaning/Robovac handle
and star cleaning hose
Model 1490, was £149.99

SALE SAVE
£139.99 £10
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

SAVE £150 ON THIS HOME CINEMA PACKAGE

TOSHIBA 20" HOME CINEMA TV
20" HOME CINEMA TV
5000 watts/10000 watts
Pro-Logic Surround Sound/Full
2 SCART sockets, Model 2057DB was £299.99 sale £149.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£149.99 £150
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

SONY 20" NICAM STEREO TV
5000 watts/10000 watts
Full/Partial/Remote control
Auto-tune/Model KD2001 was £299.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£499.99 £100
INCLUDES TV, VIDEO STAND

SAVE £100 ON THIS NICAM STEREO TELEVISION

SONY 20" NICAM STEREO TV
5000 watts/10000 watts
Full/Partial/Remote control
Auto-tune/Model KD2001 was £299.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£499.99 £100
INCLUDES TV, VIDEO STAND

SAVE £30 ON THIS NICAM STEREO VIDEO

AIWA 4 HEADERS VIDEO
4 heads/long play/100
Full/Partial/Remote control
Auto-tune/Model VPC2000 was £299.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER
SALE SAVE
£269.99 £30
LOWER THAN SALE PRICE - 3 DAYS ONLY

SAVE £50 ON THIS CAMCORDER

JVC HS-C CAMCORDER
120x digital zoom/high speed
Shutter/Programme A.E.
Model GC4000, was £299.99

BUY NOW PAY 1998
SALE SAVE
£549.99 £50
EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

SAVE £10 ON THIS BT CORDLESS PHONE

BT CORDLESS TELEPHONE
DIGITAL ANSWERING MACHINE
Intercom facility/10 memories
Secondary handset/channel
automatic selection/ring and
tone alarm/Available in grey or
white, Model FREESTYLE 1100 was £129.99

SALE SAVE
£119.99 £10
FREE £10 BY PHONECARD*

SAVE UP TO £170 ON HI-FI SYSTEMS

PIONEER CD HI-FI
100 watts RMS power output/AM/FM
cassette tuner/Remote control
Best bass, Model PW15 was £219.99 previously £389.99

VOUCHER SAVE
£329.99 £70
LOWER THAN SALE PRICE - 3 DAYS ONLY

PHILIPS CD MICRO HI-FI
45 watts RMS power output
AM/FM digital tuner/Full logic
cassette tuner/Remote control
Best bass, Model PW15 was £219.99 previously £389.99

SALE SAVE
£199.99 £170

SAVE UP TO £50 ON THIS MULTIMEDIA CD

AIWA 4 DISC MULTIMEDIA CD HI-FI
45 watts RMS power output
45 track programmable CD
Digital sound processor
Front surround sound
Model D2000, was £249.99 sale £199.99

VOUCHER SAVE
£299.99 £50
LOWER THAN SALE PRICE - 3 DAYS ONLY

SONY 5 DISC MULTIMEDIA CD HI-FI
100 watts RMS power output/AM/FM
cassette tuner/Remote control
32 track programmable CD
Full logic cassette deck/3-way
loud speaker system, Model N455 was £499.99 previously £549.99

SALE SAVE
£449.99 £150

THE COMET PRICE

If you buy any product from Comet, then within 14 days find the same offer on sale locally at a lower price, we'll willingly refund the difference, PLUS 10% OF THAT DIFFERENCE.

America ruled by 2000 reasons for the quiet life

FREE SATELLITE FULLY INSURED HURRY - LAST

COMMODORE

TECHNICS

100

MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

Clinton romped home tapping a mood of peace and prosperity, but in an increasingly isolationist US, writes Rupert Cornwell

America ruled by 2000 reasons for the quiet life



All things to all men: Americans opted for the status quo when they elected Bill Clinton as President for a second term in November

Photograph: Reuters

The Oxford English Dictionary defines the word quadrennial as meaning 1) lasting four years, and 2) recurring every four years. They apply in equal measure to the event which dominated America's affairs in 1996 – the presi-

dential election, technically held on 5 November but for which jockeying was under way before Bill Clinton had been inaugurated for a first term in January 1993.

But all these mighty endeavours resulted in anti-climax. Once the retired general Colin Powell, the strongest potential Republican candidate, announced in November 1995 that he would not run, Mr Clinton moved into a lead which hardly varied between the Iowa caucuses in mid-February, the kick-off to the primary season, and voting day.

The Republican challenger, Bob Dole, notwithstanding a singularly inept campaign, lost by only eight points.

The margin would almost certainly have been larger but for the late-breaking controversy over seamy foreign fund-raising by the Democrats, which raised familiar ethical doubts about Mr Clinton, and may have cost his party its chance of regaining at least partial control of Congress.

But the basic message sent by voters was plain. America is prosperous and at peace. Its citizens are increasingly conservative, but reasonably content with their lot, and unmoved at what an ideologically driven Republican party with unfettered control of the executive and legislative branches might

do. Thus they opted for the status quo, making Mr Clinton the first Democrat since Roosevelt to win a second term. Or rather, nominally Democratic.

His greatest strength as a politician (and his greatest weakness) is his capacity to be all things to all men. His campaign stole traditional Republican themes by the bucketful – among them law and order, tougher welfare rules and a balanced budget – at one point producing the paradox of stock and bond-price declines on the rare occasions when the Republicans, once the party of Wall Street, seemed to have a sniff of victory. Expect him now to run the most conservative Democratic administration of the 20th century. And that, the election showed, is exactly what the country wants, whatever its feelings about Bill Clinton the man.

But contentment breeds an inward gaze. To say America has turned isolationist would be an exaggeration. Despite the contempt for the United Nations that culminated in this month's shoddy ousting of its Secretary-General, Boutros Boutros Ghali, the Clinton administration is well aware that while the US is the world's indispensable nation, it also needs a functioning UN.

If anything, US involvement

in peace-keeping and in other multilateral missions has increased over the past four years. You just wouldn't guess it by listening.

In the campaign, apart from Mr Dole's periodic denunciations of "Bontros Bontros Ghali", and his supposed quest to wrest control of the US military from the Pentagon, foreign policy was barely men-

tioned. "Has anyone got a foreign affairs question?" pleaded the moderator Jim Lehrer towards the end of the second presidential debate in San Diego. After a silence, there was a rather sheepish inquiry about trade with Japan. The moment encapsulated two truths: that the demise of the Soviet Union has taken national security off the table, and that if Clinton foreign policy has a constant, it is a focus on international economics.

But while foreign policy may not have affected the election, it certainly affected foreign-policy making. By no

coincidence, Mr Clinton's one important pronouncement of the campaign, a commitment to an enlarged Nato by 1999, came in Cleveland, Ohio – home to great numbers of people of East European origin, swing voters in a crucial state. In the Middle East, American diplomacy was put on hold when president wants a skirmish with Israel in an election year?

By luck rather than judge-

ment, the administration got away with it. An uncommon and doubtless transient calm settled on the world in 1996. Despite the jolt to the Middle East peace process administered by Likud's election victory in May, most Washington foreign policy objectives survived the year unscathed.

Boris Yeltsin was re-elected. Peace of a kind prevails in Bosnia, and Mr Clinton's decision to keep US troops in the Balkans for a further 12 to 18 months raised hardly an eyebrow. Relations with China seem on the mend, while Fidel Castro was, as always, an irritant. This time, though, his antics, by enabling Mr Clinton to talk tough on Havana to the Cuban-American community in Florida, may have helped the President carry a traditionally Republican state in November. The Mexican peso did not collapse, and Haiti did not

explode. About the only shots fired in earnest by the US military were the 44 cruise missiles launched against Iraq in early September. The end of history may not have arrived yet, but in Washington this year it has sometimes seemed so.

In fact, none of the basic questions has been properly answered. Internationalism and isolationism continue their age-old struggle for America's soul. Despite Mr Clinton's promise, Nato enlargement remains a fiercely debated topic. Nor has a framework for American intervention abroad been established. Think-tanks and distinguished columnists yearn for a "Clinton Doctrine", an articulated foreign policy blueprint. Certainly, the door and cautious Warren Christopher was never likely to provide one. Perhaps that will change with the forceful new Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, and the greater interest in foreign policy to be expected from a second-term President.

But here too, the "quadrennial" rule applies. Mr Clinton has not even been sworn in for a second term. In the meantime, quietly yet unmistakably, Vice-President Al Gore and a clutch of Republicans are already manoeuvring for election 2000.

Washington Correspondent

His strength is his capacity to be all things to all men

Spin doctors and surgeons save the comeback kid

They revived the President, but can he resuscitate Russia, asks Phil Reeves

It is only a slight exaggeration to say that 1996 was the year that Boris Yeltsin rose from the dead. One year ago, politically and physically, he seemed a terminally ill patient, whose chance of winning a second stint in the Kremlin were about as remote as the likelihood of his appearance on the centre court at Wimbledon for a game of his beloved tennis.

Yet the new year will dawn to find Mr Yeltsin back in office again, having – as far as we can tell – mended his diseased heart. His biggest blunder, the war in Chechnya, has finally ended (although the republic remains volatile). General Alexander Lebed, the politician who so openly aspired to jump into his shoes, is sidelined.

And many of his other opponents are beginning to look as though they might turn into nothing more lethal than Denis Healey's famous dead sheep. It is too soon to say that the Russian President's comeback is assured, but the very fact that he has survived is nothing short of astonishing.

Cast your mind back, if you will. This time 12 months ago, the Communists had just swept to victory in parliamentary elections. Mr Yeltsin was a remote and ailing figure, being nursed in a sanatorium after his second heart attack of the year. Only one in 10 voters had supported the government-backed party, "Our Home is Russia".

Body bag after body bag was being flown back from Chechnya, each one a reminder of the awful cost of sending troops into the republic a year earlier for a war that some say has cost as many as 100,000 lives. Economic gloom, cynicism over privatisation, rampant crime, post-imperial depression, and nostalgia for the social safety net of Soviet system, fused together to send Mr Yeltsin's poll ratings plunging to a dismal 5 per cent.

With a presidential election looming in the summer, the odds pointed to a future in which Russia would be governed by the experienced Communist leader, Gennady Zyuganov, whose true political creed was uncertain – it veered from moderate to died-in-the-wool nationalist, according to his audience – and whose entourage included some alarmingly regressive elements. The West was worried. So were those who benefited from the collapse of Communism, notably big business.

Yet the Kremlin seemed to be at a loss. At first, Mr Yeltsin tried to steal communist and nationalist clothes, making sacrifices of politicians who were perceived to be pro-western, notably Andrei Kozyrev, the Foreign Minister. The same motive lay behind



Dancing bear: Yeltsin fought a spirited campaign. Photograph: Reuters

his wild and bloody efforts to end the Chechen conflict with brute force, a fatal strategy which was so humilitatingly illustrated by the siege at Pervomayskoye when several days of pounding by Russian Grad missiles, helicopter rockets, special forces, and tanks failed to suppress a small force of lightly-armed Chechens who were holed up in the village with scores of hostages. In the end, many of the rebels – including their leader, Salman Raduyev – escaped.

You could argue that Mr Yeltsin was saved by his doctors from an "annus horribilis" that would have made the Queen's famous bad year look like a

garden party. A huge role was, of course, played by the surgeons who carried out his quintuple by-pass operation in November – after he finally publicly admitted to the world what we had always suspected: that he had a serious heart condition. But, before that, it was the doctors from the Department of Spin who saved his skin.

As the count-down to the elections began, a team of advisers, headed by Anatoly Chubais and supported by a coterie of Moscow business magnates, set about resurrecting his fortunes. Helped by a national media that was generally willing to sacrifice impartiality to defend its own interests, they lavished

millions on a ruthless publicity campaign. Mr Yeltsin was transformed from a tired old man into a whirling dervish, who travelled the length and breadth of the land dispensing (later broken) promises of money and favours.

Mr Yeltsin staged a last-minute clear-out from the Kremlin of the hard-line "party of war", including General Pavel Grachev, the Defence Minister, and the head of the presidential guard, General Alexander Korzhakov, his close friend. Only days before the election's final round on 3 July, he disappeared from view again, crippled by heart trouble. But by then, the turnaround had been secured.

His return to seclusion precipitated a power struggle which owes its beginnings to one of the strangest twists of the year: the rise and fall of General Alexander Lebed. The ex-paratrooper general was catapulted to power by the Kremlin. When he won an impressive 10.7 million votes, Mr Yeltsin made him national security adviser and secretary of the Security Council in the hope of inheriting his support in the run-off.

It was a short-lived liaison. The general made little secret of his ambition to take over from Mr Yeltsin, whom he began to criticise with increasing openness – particularly when the President was slow to embrace his crucial peace deal with the Chechens. But his main opponent was the President's new chief-of-staff, Anatoly Chubais, who – assisted by an alliance with Tatiana Dyachenko, Mr Yeltsin's daughter – took advantage of the President's illness to carve himself out a position as the country's most powerful official.

In October, General Lebed was fired. The general must now begin anew, building a political party and power base of his own.

As the new year begins, a precarious calm prevails. The prospect that Russia will return to some form of communism has receded sharply in 1996, and may now be dead. But many of the economic and social ailments that made Mr Yeltsin so unpopular a year ago still exist. Nor is 1997 likely to be an easy year.

The agenda makes grim reading: unpaid wages and pensions, a battle to collect taxes from a population that distrusts government, reform of the once-mighty military, attempts to scupper the Chechen elections, resentment over Nato expansion, endemic corruption, organised crime, and more. Mr Yeltsin may have amazed the world with his capacity for survival, but he will need every ounce of strength if he is to overcome the problems that lie in wait.

Moscow Correspondent

SPEND £299 OR MORE ON ONE OR MORE PRODUCTS AT COMET AND GET A **FREE SKY SATELLITE SYSTEM FULLY INSTALLED*** HURRY - LAST FEW DAYS

Simply subscribe to any Sky package, subject to conditions. See in store for details.

COMET MULTIMEDIA PC

- Intel 120MHz Pentium processor
- 3Mb EDO RAM
- 356Kb cache memory
- 1.2Gb hard disk drive
- 8 speed CD ROM drive
- 3D accelerator card with 3Mb video RAM
- 16 bit Waveable surround sound card
- Windows 95 operating system
- Includes Sega Gameport and 3 Sega classic arcade games including Virtua Fighter, Model F120

FREE OLIMET INKJET PRINTER* NORMALLY £99.99

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

SALE £999.99 EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

VOUCHER: FREE PRINTER - 3 DAYS ONLY

GOODMANS

28" HOME CINEMA TV/VIDEO & 5 SPEAKER PACKAGE

28" NIMAX STEREO TV

- 66cm visible screen, Model 2830
- was £429.99 previously £449.99
- sale £399.99

NIMAX STEREO VIDEO

- 4 heads
- Videoplus
- Long play
- Model VNT00PDC, was £289.99
- previously £249.99, £274.99
- sale £249.99

DOLBY PRO-LOGIC AMPLIFIER

- includes 5 speakers, Model DPL805
- was £299.99 in-store £199.99
- PLUS TV/VIDEO STAND WORTH £20

EXCLUSIVE TO COMET

BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

VOUCHER £749.99 **SAVE £370**

LOWER THAN SALE PRICE - 3 DAYS ONLY

TECHNICS

CD MINI HI-FI

- 48 watts RMS power output
- FM/MW/LW digital tuner
- 4 piece separates system
- 24 track programmable CD
- Twin cassette deck
- Model SCCH540
- was £399.99
- previously £429.99
- sale £379.99

VOUCHER £329.99 **SAVE £100**

LOWER THAN SALE PRICE - 3 DAYS ONLY

BEST SOUNDS '96

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OPENING HOURS

OPEN TODAY 10AM-6PM, FRIDAY 27TH 9AM-6PM, SATURDAY 28TH 9AM-6PM, MOST STORES OPEN SUNDAY 29TH 11AM-5PM

RING FREE ON 0300 425 425 FOR DETAILS OF YOUR NEAREST STORE

COMET

MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

Middle East ruled by death and hypocrisy

From Qana to Algeria, western blindness only ensured that things got worse, writes Robert Fisk

It was a vicious, hypocritical year in the Middle East, a year which has scattered the seeds of the dreadful events which we shall inevitably witness in the year to come. Almost every decision taken by every leader in the region was wrong, though with the grim perspective of hindsight it is easy to see how one act of folly led to another. Yitzhak Rabin, the murderer of Yitzhak Rabin, must be laughing in his prison cell; everything he prayed for is coming true.

Shimon Peres had postponed the elections in Israel but then, for reasons still unexplained, the Israelis murdered the Hamas bomber, Yamilia Ayash, in Gaza. From this and from Israel's gloating over his death there inevitably followed the Palestinians' wicked revenge: bus bombings in Israel.

And from those bombings followed an "anti-terrorist" conference in Egypt in March at which President Bill Clinton, grieving over Israel's civilian dead and desperate to give Mr Peres his election victory, gave Israel the green light for any future "anti-terrorist" adventures. So when a bomb killed a Lebanese boy in Lebanon in April, the Hizbollah retaliated with Katyusha rockets into Israel and Mr Peres let his army off the leash - courtesy of the Clinton green light - to give the Middle East another bloodbath, the cruelly named "Operation Grapes of Wrath".

It was supposed to win Mr Peres the election: Mr Clinton would also later bomb Arabs, this time in Iraq, in another pre-emption demonstration of toughness, although with rather more success at the subsequent polls. But Israel's April bombardment of southern Lebanon targeted civilians rather than Hizbollah men. A mere 13 guerrillas were killed but every



Revenge: Twenty-two people died when a Hamas suicide bomb blew up a bus in Jerusalem, in retaliation for the Israelis' assassination of Yamilia Ayash. Photograph: Reuters

day the Israeli air force and army struck at civilians, firing at apartment blocks, ambulances, UN bases, all the time claiming to be hitting "terrorist targets". Israel slaughtered more than 170 men, women

and children, 101 of them in the UN's base at Qana. The Israelis claimed it was a mistake - the Hizbollah had been firing from Qana at an Israeli patrol laying booby trap bombs in the UN zone - but the UN concluded

the shelling was probably deliberate and *The Independent* revealed a videotape which clearly showed an Israeli pilotless photo-reconnaissance aircraft over Qana while the atrocity was taking place.

From President Clinton, who expressed such understandable sorrow at the deaths of Israelis two months earlier, came not a word of condemnation. But it didn't help Mr Peres, who lost the election, partly, perhaps, because his traditional Arab Israeli supporters were so disgusted by Qana. When Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud government took over, the Arab world quickly understood what this meant: Mr Netanyahu in effect tore up the Oslo accord while the US guarantors did no more than chuck disapprovingly from the sidelines. The deal that now looks set to be struck will not change that.

For the Arabs, it was another historic betrayal by the West.

Promised independence if they helped the Allies in the 1914-18 war, their world had been secretly partitioned by the superpowers, while the British promised their support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

Now the "land-for-peace" agreement, under which the US had staked its honour, and under which the Palestinians were encouraged to believe that they would acquire a state, proves to have been worth no more than the promises which Lawrence of Arabia gave to the princes of the Hejaz.

Yet the Americans remained obsessed with the idea of Islamic "terrorism", with the encouragement of the Israelis. When a TWA airliner fell

into the sea off New York, American journalists vied with each other to name the guilty Arabs while the *Jerusalem Post* blamed Iran, referring to the "slobbering" Muslims responsible for such a supposed crime.

Now that the Boeing company may have more to explain than the mullahs of Tehran - by the year's end, a technical fault seemed the most likely explanation for the disaster - such claims have been quietly forgotten. But when the Americans were hit by a real act of "Islamic" violence, in the Saudi city of Dhahran, they were, as usual, unprepared.

Ossama bin Laden, one of many Gulf dissidents who may yet succeed in destroying the

corrupt regimes of the Gulf in order to impose their own ruthless version of "Islam", appeared in the fastness of Afghanistan to tell *The Independent* that the British and the French should also withdraw their soldiers from the land of Mecca and Medina.

But ironically, last year was the start of a new European relationship with the Middle East. Mainly because of America's collapsing credibility and prestige in the region, the Arabs saw Europe, and particularly France, the old mandat power in Syria and Lebanon, as an alternative to the world's only superpower.

When the French Prime Minister, Jacques Chirac, toured the Middle East, telling a lot of home truths which the Arabs and an ever larger number of Europeans had been waiting to hear, he was fitted as a saviour. It included the involvement of Paris in the April ceasefire in Lebanon - marks a new role for Europe in a region in which it lost all credit during the 1956 Suez invasion.

Elsewhere in the Middle East, the bad got worse. Algeria's sadistic war became ever more gruesome as a military-backed regime went on fighting an ever more savage "Islamic" guerrilla army whose throat-cuttings have embarrassed even the most fundamentalist of Iranian clerics.

In Iraq, the children went on dying, at least until the oil began to flow again this month, while Saddam Hussein continued to rule as his son killed his son-in-law and then got shot himself.

Such family horrors helped to distract a US that is now being divided by Israel - between those of its citizens, led by prominent members of the Jewish community, who still support Mr Netanyahu and those who dare to question the United States' subservience to Israel's every whim.

Middle East Correspondent

Biggest Brands! Biggest Savings!

...WIDE RANGE OF 1997 DIARIES & PLANNERS IN STOCK ALL AT GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES...

BRITAIN'S
S

OFFICE WORLD DELUXE OPERATORS CHAIR (Code 303-770/773/827/900)
• Back rest adjustment
• Gas seat height adjustment
• Available in Post, Charcoal, Grey and Red.

SALE
£44.99
78% off
From Price £175.00



16 Double
DOUBLE
DIFFERENCE
Refined

BIGGEST
A

VIRGIN DSHD 3.5" FORMATTED DISKS (Code 132-100)
• Double sided high density
• Guaranteed for life

SALE
£6.59
33% off
From Price £9.99



OFFICE
L

REXEL POLYPROPYLENE A4 RING BINDER (Code 034-737)
• Available in assorted colours
• 2 ring mechanism

SALE
45p
55% off
From Price £1.00



SUPPLIES
E

AMSTRAD PPF600 PLAIN PAPER FAX MACHINE (Code 204-103)
• Telephone/answering machine interface • 20 page document feeder
• Auto telephone/fax switch
• 12 one-touch and 62 abbreviated dial keys • Ink film printing on plain paper • 12 months on-site warranty

SALE
£298.99
36% off
From Price £469.99



BLACK & WHITE PHOTOCOPYING
print
SALE
From 2.35p each
53% off
From Price 5.00p

PANASONIC UF-S1 FAXTAM (Code 203-917) • Combined fax, telephone and answer machine
• Document feeder
• Fine transmission mode
• 25 number memory store
• Last number redial
• 12 months warranty

SALE
£235.00
21% off
From Price £295.00



Open 8am-8pm Monday to Friday,
9am-6pm Saturday, 10.30am-4.30pm Sunday
CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR OFFERS
CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED BOXING DAY 10.30am-4.30pm NEW YEAR'S EVE 8am-5pm
NEW YEAR'S DAY 9am-6pm (EDINBURGH AND GLASGOW CLOSED)
NORMAL TRADING HOURS APPLY ON ALL OTHER DAYS

FREEPHONE 0800 5000 24
FREEFAX 0800 24 5000 ANYTIME **FREE DELIVERY**

There's always more % off at Office World

Office World
The No 1 Office Supplies Discount Superstore

Divisions of the past still cloud the rainbow nation

Abolished in theory, apartheid is everywhere, writes Mary Braid

The deflation was sudden. One moment Aluwani Ntseanda, 25-year-old press officer for the new, democratically elected, ANC-led council, was striding confidently up the path outlining plans for the former "independent" homeland Venda; the next he was tongue-tied, unsure, eyes cast down.

The man responsible was standing ahead of us - a fat, blond white South African policeman. Despite all the conscious raising on the long road to freedom, Mr Ntseanda was reduced to "boy" again in the presence of "boss". "He used to beat me up during demonstrations," an embarrassed Mr Ntseanda explained later.

It seems almost trite that race dominates a country like South Africa; but six months into my stint here, its all-pervasiveness still shocks.

Two years after the end of white minority rule Mr Ntseanda's humiliation is a subtle moment in the racial shake-down under way. Now and again there are more obscene flashes, like the middle-aged woman who cocked her thumb towards the run-down huts at the bottom of her garden, during my search for a house to rent, and said: "You can have him if you like. If you don't want him, we'll evict him." She was referring to the black gardener who lived on the premises.



Divided: Mandela and FW de Klerk represent the two sides of a nation. Photograph: Reuters

She went on to offer some advice about handling lazy "blacks". That was in your face. More often the racism lurks, shark-like, beneath the surface, the real root of some other "problem". Ask white South Africans why they have forsaken Johannesburg's city centre in their tens of thousands, moving offices nearer their luxurious, and increasingly fortified, homes in the predominantly white northern suburbs and they will answer: crime.

The city centre's crime rate is undeniably high. But scratch a little and discover the seldom mentioned bogeyman - Africa: squalid, poor and black, which the continent's white South Africans, ever forever faced on Europe, have for centuries tried to ignore. In the northern

suburbs the city could be Surrey. So it was once with the centre when rich white ladies in long white gloves met for tea served by black waiters, banished to townships after dark.

But when legislation designed to keep blacks down - and out of white areas - began to crumble, the dark continent began to seep and then flood through. Whites, appalled at the loss of ownership, evacuated. Dennis Beckett, a South African journalist, calls the retreat to high walls and panic buttons the "look-at-Africa-and-run-like-hell" syndrome. It is a dangerous condition: it helps keep apartheid in place without the need for legislation.

Despite the aspirations of President Mandela's rainbow nation there are still two South Africas; one white, the other black. Whites generally drive cars, blacks queue for minibuses. Road-repair gangs are black; foremen white.

Against the background of this social schizophrenia, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has wrestled this year to heal a sick society. The state-sanctioned violence that was required to keep racial madness in place has been laid bare in testimony to the commission, and in the recent court case involving the self-confessed state assassin Eugene de Kock. But many whites remain strangely

blinkered, even blind. During a three-week trip to Rwanda in November I encountered the feared dark heart of Africa. In this lush, green country dominated by spectacular volcanic mountains the international press corps was on Hutu refugee watch. Two years before the hotel we shared in Gisenyi, on the border with Zaire, was the headquarters for Hutu militias as they carried out the genocide of 800,000 Tutsis. Few of us swam in the beautiful hotel pool. In 1994 it had been filled with the corpses of men, women and babies.

Across the border in rebel-held Goma, squalor nestled next to opulence. In President Mobutu's luxurious lakeside villa, giant, gallon-size bottles of pure French perfume decorated the his 'o' hers Jacuzzi. A quarter of a mile down the road Mr Mobutu must have travelled to reach his holiday home was the crumbling block of flats which until the rebellion had housed his unpaid and corrupt armed forces. This was the African caricature. A continent of war, violence, poverty and tin-pot dictators.

When I returned to South Africa, whites discussed the Great Lakes crisis as if it was happening on another planet. "It's tribal, isn't it?" said one white female colleague. "How

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

China lurk
the Asian

MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

No stopping the single currency juggernaut

Europe has turned the corner and monetary union is inevitable, writes Andrew Marshall

It has been a strange year in Europe, one of manoeuvring and shadow-boxing, hedging and ditching. Yet out of this mess, a greater truth is emerging: Europe will have a single currency.

At the beginning of 1996, it would have looked to a casual observer as if monetary union might not happen at all. The economics looked dodgy, the politics worse, and the prospects for success by 1999 seemed slight. By the end of the year, all that had turned around – to the extent that the actual notes were on display. For the first time, monetary union had become a concrete reality, a tangible fact: we could see the colour of the money. It is likely to prove a turning point.

The combination of slow growth in Europe and political opposition have both looked to be formidable obstacles to a single currency ever since the goal was agreed at Maastricht in 1991. The economic numbers from France and Germany (let alone the rest) looked as if they would make the project impossible. And in what could have been an important turning point, monetary union appeared as a divisive issue in the domestic politics of the state which matters more than all the others: Germany. The opposition Social Democrats campaigned against the euro in Baden-Württemberg under the slogan: "Stability and jobs have priority over EMU." But this call was soundly rejected by the electorate.

But by the end of the year, the project has picked up momentum. At meetings in Verona, in Florence, and in Dublin, the EU started to put flesh on the bones. The new notes, unveiled in Dublin this month, may have been the most visible evidence of progress; but more important still was the so-called "stability pact", an

agreement that will regulate the workings of economic policy under monetary union. It is one of the basic building blocks for a single currency.

Technically, it sets the rules for the acceptable limits of budget deficits for countries that participate in the euro. Politically, it ensures that Germany has a guarantee that the euro will be as stable and reliable as its own currency.

None of this means that the struggles are over, of course. The protests against budget cuts that have echoed across the main squares of Europe this year have shown that the divisive effect of cuts and austerity packages can generate anger and effective opposition. There will be more of this next year.

Periodically, the effusion of opposition seems to crystallise

The debate has rarely made contact with the reality

into a real problem for monetary union. At least twice this year – in January and September – the flood of protests, expressions of doubt amongst the great and good of Europe and economic rumblings cast doubt on the enterprise.

It is partly a question of perception. Because of the sometimes tortuous way in which EMU advances, and because so much of the preparation is highly technical, the solidity of the single currency seems in doubt. Roadblocks and riots in Europe are more graphic, more obviously solid than meetings of finance ministers.

But the reality is that the project thunders on down the road, making progress in a sometimes haphazard way

towards the goal of a single currency for Europe. As the Dublin summit showed, the fundamental political will in the rest of Europe is still there, and strikes by French and Greek lorry drivers or demonstrations in Rome will not divert it.

In Britain, the debate has moved this way and that over the course of 1996, rarely making contact with the reality of what is going on in Europe. Shadow boxing between and within the Labour and Conservative parties did little to clarify the basic issue: whether or not Britain will participate in a single currency. Both parties appeared to move further away from participation – yet neither would issue concrete statements with an election around the corner.

But there were vague stirrings this year in Britain, a sense of awakening from the prolonged sleep of the last five years. For the first time, there was an apparent recognition that something is actually happening. One index of this is the gap between what Malcolm Rifkind said in January and what he said in October. The Foreign Secretary, at the beginning of this year, was letting it be known that he thought the project to be on its last legs, and that he believed a postponement was just around the corner. By the time he made a landmark speech in Zurich in October, the angle was different. Instead, monetary union was presented as an imminent reality, albeit a risky and dangerous one.

That does not mean that the battles are over – indeed the biggest battle of all, over who takes part and who does not – is still some way down the road. But over the next year, there will be more and more signs of monetary union, taking it further off the drawing board and into the realm of the practical.

Foreign Editor



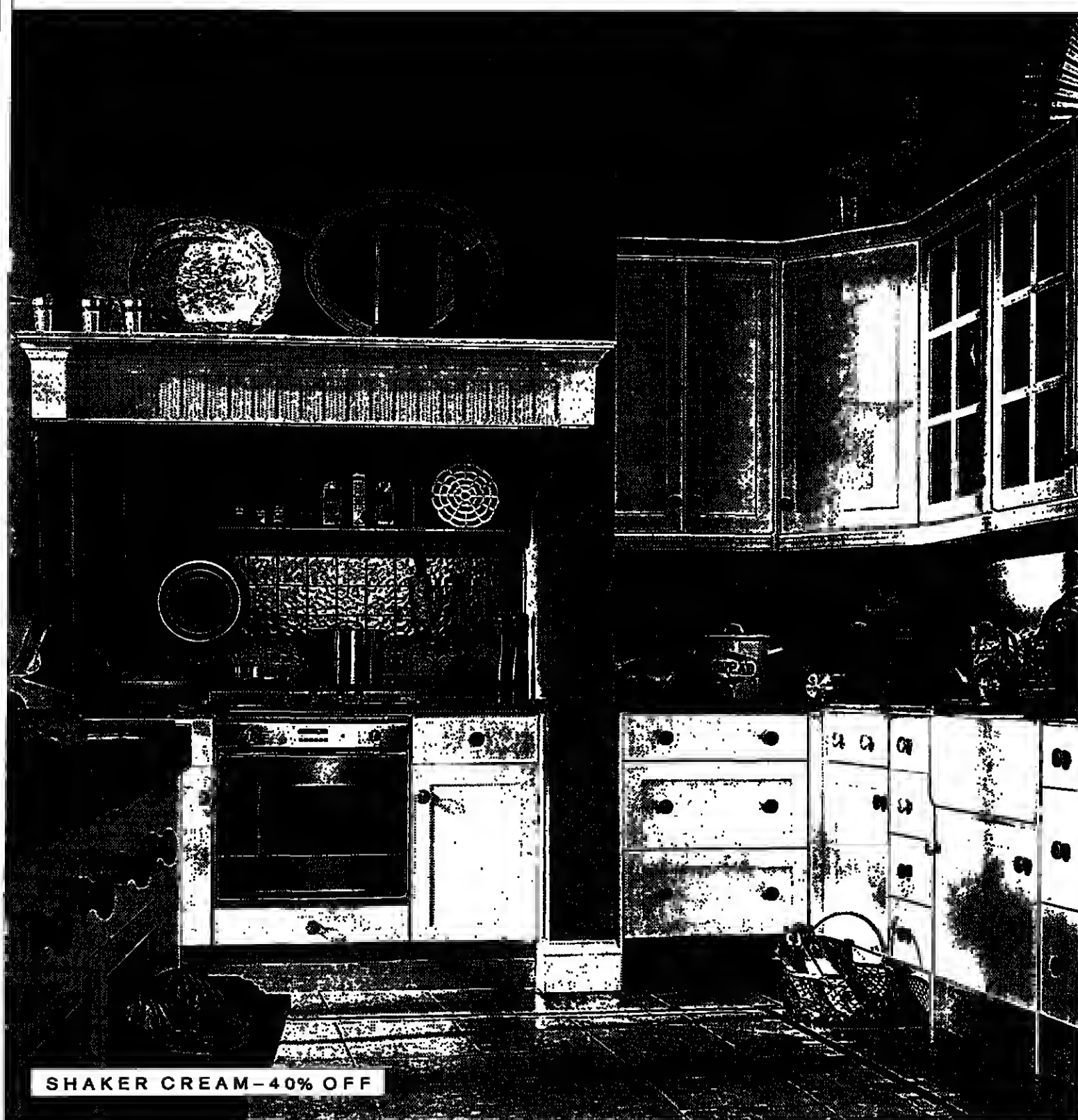
Blockade: Protests by French lorry drivers against budget cuts to help meet EMU targets meant gridlock for thousands

Photograph: PA

HALF PRICE SALE

SHAKER CREAM is plainly more attractive with an **EXTRA 10% OFF** sale prices

Magnet
SALE
NOW ON



SHAKER CREAM – 40% OFF

Right now for the January Sale, all cabinets in 50 Kitchen and Bedroom ranges are reduced in price, most by 50%

ADDITIONAL Whirlpool OFFERS

FREE DISHWASHER

ADG993 when you spend £2,250 or more (excluding installation)
WORTH £399.99 (RRP)

FREE HOB

with selected oven packs

FREE HOOD

with selected oven packs

UP TO 30% OFF

Refrigeration

20% OFF

Laundry

ASK IN-STORE FOR DETAILS OF THESE AND MANY MORE OFFERS!

FIRENZE

A new range of appliances available exclusively from Magnet.

FOR YOUR NEAREST SHOWROOM

Call 0800 555 825

Serving up beautiful kitchens during Christmas and New Year between the hours of Thursday 28th December 10.00-5.00, Friday 29th and Saturday 30th December 9.00-4.00 (Excluding events). Check each branch for details. Sale discounts are off prices free available between 25th November and 25th December 1996 including introductory offers on Romantic and Modern Bedroom collections. *Applies to kitchen purchases only when you spend £1,000 or more on cabinets.

IND47

Magnet

Food for thought

China lurks behind the Asian tigers

Peking is the key to tensions throughout the continent, writes Richard Lloyd Parry

Asia has seemed almost quiet over the last 12 months: 1995 was a spectacular year which saw terrorist attacks and earthquakes in Japan, ouster of the Chinese in the South Pacific and, throughout the region, wrenching commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the end of the Pacific war. The crises of 1996 were of a different order: few big splashes, but many inconclusive ripples.

In March, the US 7th Fleet steamed into action after China began a series of war games in the run-up to the first ever democratic elections in Taiwan. But the polls went ahead, the winner Lee Teng Hui proudly chose not to declare independence from Peking, and the battleships steamed peacefully home again.

There were no big wars or natural disasters or dramatic falls from power in East Asia in 1996, and the year ended with displays of high-profile unity at economic summits in Manila and Singapore.

But to take this relative calm for stability, or to assume that the changes that have transformed European security have had an equivalent effect in Asia, would be premature.

Five years after the evaporation of the Soviet threat, Asian governments are in a state of uneasy readjustment. But classic communism is in decline in Asia, like everywhere else. In June the Communist Party of Vietnam held its party congress beneath giant images of Marx and Lenin – but behind the rhetoric the Central Committee's report read in parts like the work of Western management consultants. Even North Korea, the world's last Stalinist bastion, welcomed

Westerners in September to its first Free Trade Zone.

But ideological differences are still alive in Asia, as this year demonstrated. For years, students of economics and international affairs have debated the existence of "Asian values" – hard work, strong, supportive families and a willingness to sacrifice the interests of the individual for the good of the group.

Authoritarian states such as Singapore, Indonesia and Malaysia have long attracted the concern of Western human rights organisations; the focus for this was Burma, and its democracy leader Aung San

To take this relative calm for stability would be premature

Suu Kyi, who maintained her dignity in the face of continued harassment by the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). In July, governments in Europe and America reacted with anger when Burma was welcomed as a probationary member of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean).

On the face of it, the Asean decision was understandable – by embracing rather than judging the SLORC. Burma's Asean brethren will have their best chance of setting the nation towards wealth and democracy.

But the appeal to Asian values is looking more and more like an excuse for despots to hold on to their power. Fellow feeling among South-east

Asians did little for the Indonesians arrested in the aftermath of the July riots for their peaceful opposition to the government – nor for the inhabitants of East Timor, the former Portuguese territory annexed 20 years ago.

The correspondences between Burma and Indonesia were emphasised in October with the award of the Nobel Peace Prize, previously won by Ms Suu Kyi, to Bishop Carlos Belo and Jose Ramos Horta of East Timor.

But at the deepest level, the Burma dispute, like almost all the other tensions in the region, is about China. Peking already has the world's biggest army; in the first quarter of the next century it will have developed the world's biggest economy. Scratch away at most of the incidents, spats and stand-offs which have flickered throughout Asia in 1996 and you will find China.

To the Asean countries, China is a source of fear and opportunity. By maintaining an ambivalent distance from the values of the West, they leave open the option of eventual détente with Peking, while constructing a reassuring *cordon sanitaire* out of new members such as Laos, Cambodia – and Burma. Increasingly, future Chinese assertiveness was fore-shadowed in the form of territorial disputes – from the seemingly trivial squabble over the lonely Senkaku/Diaoyutai chain, claimed by Japan, to sabre-rattling over Taiwan.

In a sense, these disputes will remain unsolved until after the handover of Hong Kong at the end of June. Only then will China's neighbours have a sense of what to expect – or fear.

Tokyo Correspondent

MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

THEATRE

Season of short, sharp shocks

The spaces have kept on the move, but then so have the best of the new writers. By Paul Taylor



Sharp edged: Mark Ravenhill's writing drew censorious fire

Tristram Kenton

In purely geographical terms, it's been a confusing year. Whether because of lottery-funded refurbishments, brewery-enforced overhauls or callous evictions, most of London's key purveyors of new writing have had to play "musical venues". So, in order to catch the latest new offering from the Bush, you've had to remember not to catch the tube to Shepherd's Bush but to head, instead, for the Lyric Studio or Electric Cinema. Going to the Royal Court now involves a trip into the West End and struggling to recall whether the Theatre Downstairs is the old Duke of York's or whether it's the old Ambassador's (aka the Theatre Upstairs - where Stephen Daldry and designer William Dudley have, to confuse matters still further, carved out two new spaces - the Stage and the Circle - from the old auditorium).

"Which side is up?" is a question that is now, more than usual, up in the air.

It's heartening to report, though, that when you finally tracked down these places in 1996, you tended to be given the goods. If one of the primary duties of theatre is to confront a society with itself - to make it catch its reflection from a new, revealing and inescapably warranted angle - then the Court and the Bush have both been fulfilling that function with great flair. The burgeoning talents of the post-Thatcher 20-something generation, who write about the moral drift and tribal youth culture of contemporary urban life, have been handled with sensitivity and creative solicitude.

My one quarrel with Mark Ravenhill's *Shopping and Fucking* (which opened - in a flurry of censorious asterisks - in October and returns to the Royal Court on 8 Jan) is that it tried too hard to be the summary statement of our times. What can't be questioned is Ravenhill's skill at turning sharp empirical observation into a kind of diagnostic symbolism or the economy with which he conjures up a dysfunctional, disconnected, disposable world where the only relationships that can be trusted are those which can be turned into

transactions. It's an extreme vision and there are one or two scenes in the play which bad this critic on the point of fainting away. But it never feels gratuitous: rather, the work of a young man who can

look hard at moral horror and not lose his balance, sanity, wit or compassion.

That opening was also an example of how - albeit initially for pragmatic reasons - the Court has contrived to

break the hamster wheel of conventional West End theatre-going. The sound insulation at the Ambassador's does not allow both spaces to be used simultaneously, entailing a late start (eg

9.30pm) for one of the evening's two shows. Can we think, in theatre terms, of a post-watershed slot? Certainly, if you take the example of Jim Cartwright's *I Licked a Slog's Deodorant*, the 9.30 start-time allows for a piece that is shorter (under an hour), more off-the-wall and more lyrically intense than you would normally expect in this neighbourhood - and one that can appeal to young adults who may have had a few drinks, rather than the one ritual gin and tonic, beforehand. It's good that Daldry, who could have charmed money for a Cavalier theatre season out of Cromwell himself, is using the financial backing of the Jerwood Foundation to such unstable ends.

As for *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*, written by the prolific, unstoppable newcomer, Martin McDonagh, who seems to have marched straight to the top of the class, I couldn't decide whether it was the real thing or an extremely clever fake. It will be easier to tell if he has more than a quite awesome competence when his new play *The Cripple of Inishmaan* opens at the National next month. Let's hope he does.

In the West End proper, where McDonagh is surely bound, the play that has cast registers ringing is Yasmina Reza's *Art*. The teamwork of Tom Courtenay, Albert Finney and Ken Stott is a delight to behold, but the piece itself is like something a computer might have come up with if asked to devise a worldwide boulevard hit. Nobody ever lost money on a play that can flatter either an audience's philistinism or its desire to feel in-the-know about fashionable cultural issues. *Art* also has the advantage of being a "Three Tenors Concert" without the music. It's a cut above *Old Wicked Songs* or *Tolstoy* (or anything else from the tiny amount of new work that has come into the West End from the largely non-subsidised sector). But that doesn't mean we have to fool ourselves about *Art*'s quality. It's essentially a product, cleverly but shallowly written, for people who, when they hear the word "art", reach for a chocolate.

Oh what a circus, oh what a show

MUSICAL THEATRE

'Jesus Christ Superstar' has improved with age, and only a saintly 'Thodora' could better it. By Edward Seckerson



Dynamic second coming for 'Jesus Christ Superstar', 25 years after the original Geraint Lewis

Saints, swans, a Seventies Superstar. And the unmistakable sound of Ibsen's Nora shutting that door behind her. Broadway once tried its hand at a musical version of *A Doll's House*. All doors slammed fairly sharply on that one. There are no songs in Anthony Page's revelatory production at the Playhouse Theatre. Just a very free adaptation of a very great play from Frank McGuinness, and the female performance of the year from Janet McTeer. I cannot even begin to imagine the energy, physical and mental, required to keep Torvald's "little woman" (and McTeer is anything but) in her place. The frightening thing about her dizzying Nora is the extent to which she has been swallowed up by the role expected of her. It's hard, not to say exhausting, to watch her flap, fret, and simmer her way to that final scene.

Speaking of final scenes, the rather significant one at the close of *Jesus Christ Superstar* is more moving and more truthful than one would ever have thought possible of a show long since consigned to the scrapbook of post-hippy hip. But that's because the Australian director Gale Edwards takes it as she finds it, and finds it as she takes it. And she takes it a whole lot further than Jim Sharrman's original production did. It's a dynamic second coming played out in truly operatic fashion under the searching cross-beams of David Hester's stunning lighting. John Napier has excavated an eye-catching Roman arena from the ruins of Henry Irving's newly refurbished Lyceum Theatre, and a high-octane cast make no apologies whatsoever for the youthful in-

discretions of Messieurs Rice and Lloyd Webber. In the case of the latter, no apologies are necessary. This sweet, soulful, fractured, quirky, gutsy score is of its time, for sure. It's just that its time is, so far, 25 years on and counting.

Someone should get Gale Edwards into an opera house. And fast. It won't be the Royal Opera House, of course. Come July, there won't be one. Can anyone tell us what's going on? I know of one major international conductor who's been booked for *The Barber of Seville* but doesn't know where. Perhaps he never will. But back to 1996. Actually, *Jesus Christ Superstar* might well have been my opera (or "music theatre") production of the year, had it not been for the saintly *Thodora* at Glyndebourne. She was quite something. Partly on account of one George Frideric Handel, whose score - one achingly beautiful number after another - is among his unsung finest (the conductor William Christie subsequently got into all kinds of trouble for gilding the period lily with all manner of delicious instrumental embellishments). But also thanks to three vintage performances from Dawn Upshaw, Lorraine Hunt (a Handel stylist rivalled only by our own Ann Murray), and the astonishing American counter-tenor David Daniels. The production, from that ageing young Turk, Peter Sellars, was predictably despatched in some quarters. Small misgivings apart, I thought it beautiful and dignified. For those who still decry opera in English because "it sounds silly and you don't hear the words anyway", there was sign language. In keeping with Baroque practice, Sellars has lately

adopted hand gesture as an extension of feeling and sense. And it made perfect sense in *Thodora*: a universal language for a universal faith.

In case you hadn't heard, it's official: London's West End currently houses the longest-running dance production of all time. And it's a success born of Matthew Bourne's Adventures in Motion Pictures company. *Swan Lake* is capturing everyone's imagination: balletomanes, balletophobes, traditionalists and revisionists alike. Word of mouth is filling the Piccadilly Theatre. punters are going back for a second and third time.

Why? Because, despite being dubbed "the gay *Swan Lake*", Bourne's funny and heartfelt re-imagining of this enduring classic touches everyone. It's about loneliness, isolation, desire, the dream of perfect love and the nightmare of imperfect reality. "Do not feed the swans" reads the sign. But the little old lady with her bag of crumbs does not heed it. And the unloved prince, newly awakened, freed, transported, deluded by the swan of his dreams, hugs and kisses her. Talk about imitating the tear ducts in readiness for Act 2. But, I can hear you asking, "Never mind all this snivelling, what about the issues, the trends?" The only trend I care about is the one about there not being a trend. But, if I must, the BBC's Henry Wood Proms have been "trendy" for 101 years and have only now won the trust to be - and to go on being - the most adventurous classical music festival anywhere in the world. They broke all box-office records this year. Now there's a trend to encourage.

The colour of money

FILM

Box-office takings reached 'Jurassic Park' heights. Teenagers chose 'Trainspotting'. Kids and parents agreed on 'Babe' and 'Toy Story'. By Ryan Gilbey

There was a lot of money about this year. Mostly yours. The British public's enthusiasm and eagerness not only to see a film but to be first in the queue meant that the phrase: "highest since *Jurassic Park*" rang out in boardrooms almost as frequently as "two fur *Independence Day*, please" was heard in cinema foyers.

Opening weekends, those crucial three-day periods when a film is deemed to have either

succeeded or failed, were big industry news. Spielberg's 1993 dinosaur adventure had been clinging to its smile as the UK's biggest opener when along came a serial killer, a talking pig and a comedian in a bad safari shirt, uniting to give it a good kicking. Taking £7.2m in the year's first weekend, *Seven*, *Babe* and *Academy Award* winner *Nature Calls* needed to gang up to defeat the prehistoric record-holder, but they, too,

were beaten later in the year by *Independence Day*'s staggering first three days, in which it reaped £10.1m.

With £36.7m taken by mid-November, and with the film still on release, it was a foregone conclusion that the picture would be the year's biggest hit. In its wake came *Toy Story* (£22.1m), *Seven* (£19.5m) and *Mission: Impossible* (£18.3m), with *Twister* (£14.8m), which had the best advance trailer of the year but little else, bringing up the rear.

So that was where your money went. But what was going on inside your mind? The year's box-office Top 10 tells the same story as ever - big films and kids' films (or, in the case of *Mission: Impossible*, big kids' films), although the success early on in the year of *Seven*, *Heat* and *Trainspotting* among late-teens and twenties-things indicates that the target audience of so much product being spat out of Hollywood does, in fact, take its entertainment a little darker. In fact, so many young people were going to the cinema this year that it was deemed judicious to launch a new film magazine, *Neon*, to cater solely for them.

Some complained that *Neon* gave the cold shoulder to foreign pictures, but you could argue that this was simply a reflection of there being so little to celebrate this year that wasn't in the English language. There were a few exceptions: Wong Kar Wai's *Fallen Angels*; Pedro Almodovar's *The Flower of My Secret*; Pierre Salvadori's *Les Apprentis*; Lars von Trier's *The Kingdom* (which ruffled fewer feathers, but was a more astounding work than von Trier's follow-up, *Breaking the Waves*). But the numbing lack of imagination in such indulgent exercises as *Ulysse Guez* and *Le Bonheur* was overshadowed by the tragic sight of one of France's finest actors, Daniel Auteuil, appearing in two of the year's worst films, *The Eighth Day* and *Une Femme Française*.



'Trainspotting': a film that 'captured the imagination of everyone who wanted to be a junkie but hated needles'

Several directors changed their stripes, and looked better for it. Mike Leigh discovered that humanity wasn't such a bad thing after all, and made his best film, *Secrets and Lies*, which won the Palme d'Or at the Cannes Film Festival. Oliver Stone exhibited a sudden clarity of vision in *Neon*; *Stealing Beauty* was Bertolucci's most coherent and bewitching work since *Last Tango in Paris*; and Mike Figgis finally found the movie - *Leaving Las Vegas* - to suit his reputation, and his talent. But there's always one - and Woody Allen's *Mighty Aphrodite* proved that trashy comedies like *Kingpin* and *Happy Gilmore* didn't have the monopoly on regressive infantile portraits of women.

It was an American who came up with the year's most startling film: Todd Haynes's *Safe* was a ceaselessly unsettling study of a suburban housewife gripped in the teeth of an environmental illness. Along with the year's other best work - *Seven* and *Toy Story* - it did things to you that you'd forgotten cinema was capable of doing. It took your breath away.

If there was something that hung heavy over the year, it

was, as always, controversy. From the desperate efforts to whip up something in the neighbourhood of curiosity about *Showgirls* and *Striptease* to the very real outrage over *Kids*, it was a year of outrage. Over the violence in *Casino*, the politics of *Michael Collins*, and as for *Crush*... well, anyone who's seen it will gladly testify to being completely befuddled as to what exactly the world and its maiden aunt were objecting to there (you'll be able to judge for yourself if the film earns a certificate in time for its late-January release).

The big success story, with all its attendant controversy, remains *Trainspotting*. A small film about a big problem - drug addiction - it captured the imagination of everyone who wanted to be a junkie but hated needles, as well as those whose bedroom walls had been crying out for a new poster since the *Betty Blue* one fell down. Objecting to the picture as a celebration of council-estate chic was futile. It was unstoppable, thanks to a world-dominating poster campaign that bugged the hell out of you at home but made your heart jump when you ran into it on the Champs-Élysées.

DANCE

Old but bold

Veterans such as Mikhail Baryshnikov (right) and revived classics were the class of '96. By Louise Levene



The Royal Ballet's first new work for 1996 was Matthew Hart's *Dances with Death*, in which the HIV virus (Dorsey Russell in lipstick red) attacked the white corpses. The company also mined its repertoire with mixed results: a revival of Kenneth MacMillan's house-party rape drama *The Invitation*, coached by Lynn Seymour, was very welcome; the exhumation of his interminable three-act version of *Anastasia*, however, was less successful, despite giving both Viviana Durante and Sarah Widor a chance to get their teeth into another of Seymour's most famous roles.

David Bintley was already doing good work as the new artistic director of Birmingham Royal Ballet. Bintley created his hyper-extended barn-dance *Far from the Madding Crowd* with one eye firmly on the box-office but the company staged a number of strong revivals including Jerome Robbins's 1951 tale of misandry and castration, *The Cage*. Birmingham also premiered Bintley's *Nutcracker* *Sweeties*, danced to Duke Ellington's. Tchaikovsky homage and dressed to kill by Jasper Conran in tutus encrusted with Smarties and coffee beans.

Revamped classics were popular. Matthew Bourne's Adventures in Motion Pictures toured the country with *Swan Lake* before settling in for a record-breaking run at London's Piccadilly Theatre, where they were joined by Lynn Seymour, making a comeback as Siegfried's dysfunctional nymphomaniac mother.

It was a good year for veterans. Mikhail Baryshnikov packed the London Coliseum for a week in August with his less-than-worshipful *Swan Lake* padding so long as Misha was dancing in between.

Other dance phenomena also played to packed houses but with less critical success. Michael Flatley, the former Riverdancer, toured the land with his modestly entitled *Lord of the Dance*, a farago of Celtic codswallop that showcased his incessant jiggling. The paying public's unhealthy appetite for engorged egos in tight trousers was again demonstrated when the obscenely hyped Joaquín Cortés performed a travesty of flamenco in a candle-lit Alhambra. Only his fiery old uncle, Christopher Reyes, gave any indication of the true percussive power of the art.

More welcome visitors were

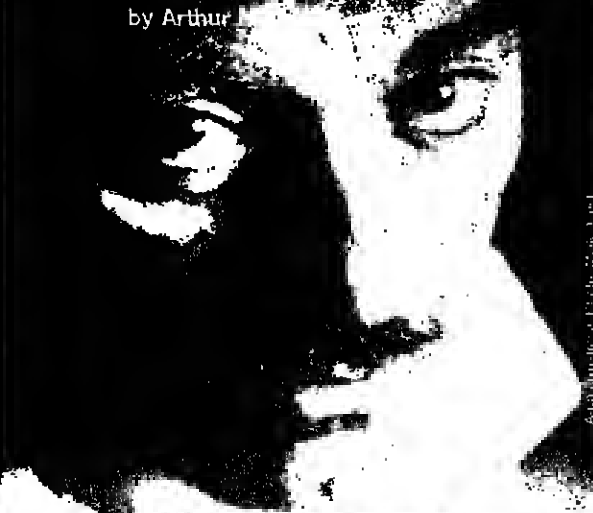
Antonio Gades, who brought the stage version of *Carmen*; *Tango por Dos*, with some more sinuous-limbed cabaret from Buenos Aires; and the Kirov Ballet with *The Nutcracker*. The Edinburgh Festival's commitment to dance was proved yet again with the annual visit by Mark Morris, Pina Bausch's magnetic *Iphigénie auf Tauris* and a long-overdue visit from the Martha Graham Dance Company, which brought an illuminating selection of influential Graham works from the Thirties and Forties.

Other imports were decidedly substandard: Les Grands Ballets Canadiens bored Sadler's Wells with its poor technique and feeble choreography and *Lucy Ballet* Prince extravaganza *Billboards* may well have dragged the company finances into the black but has also dragged its fine reputation into the mire.

Contemporary choreography was far better served by the home grown. Stuart Davie, the Jean Muir of British dance, whose interrelated works *Trespass* and *Affections* were the highlight of the 1996 Dance Umbrella Festival of modern work and a fitting celebration of her newly-acquired £50,000 Prudential Award.

Death of a Salesman

by Arthur



Alun Armstrong is outstanding. He doesn't demand attention, he compels it." Sunday Telegraph

"David Thacker's evocative production... stunningly effective" Daily Telegraph

"Miller's masterpiece" The Times

Lyttelton Theatre: Tonight, Tomorrow, Mon 30 Dec, Wed 1 Jan at 7.30pm, Sat 28 & Tues 31 Dec at 2.15pm & 7.30pm & continuing in repertoire.

NT Royal National Box Office 0171-928 2252 Theatre Post Call 0171-420 0000

MOMENTS THAT MADE THE YEAR

Last of the great showstoppers?

It was a good year for Degas, but a bad show all round when the V&A started charging admission. By Andrew Graham-Dixon

VISUAL ARTS

This past year will largely be remembered for a number of remarkable exhibitions, especially perhaps Richard Kendall's brilliant "Late Degas" at the National Gallery, and (at the same institution) Christopher Brown's exhilarating show "Rubens's Landscapes". The Sainsbury Wing's basement galleries can sometimes seem depressingly sepulchral, but on these two occasions they seemed intimate instead — appropriate for works like Degas's late pastels or Rubens's landscapes, which are fascinating partly because they are works evidently charged with so much personal meaning for the artists who created them. The exhibitions were, of course, totally different from one another, but nevertheless the sense of having stumbled into some private chamber of a great artist's imagination was overpoweringly strong in each case.

This type of relatively small but highly focused exhibition has prospered in recent years, especially at the National Gallery — although the credit for establishing it in this country as a credible alternative to the blockbuster should perhaps go to the Tate Gallery's director, Nicholas Serota, who put on a number of smaller shows (eg "Max Beckmann's Triptychs", "Late Léger" and others) during his time at the Whitechapel Gallery in the 1980s.

Leaving aside the Tate's own enormous and inevitably popular Cézanne exhibition, it has not been a great year for the huge crowd-pulling exhibition. "Picasso and Portraiture", at the Museum of Modern Art in New York and the Grand Palais in Paris, was symptomatic — this was a somewhat disappointing and opportunistic event, a nakedly biographical exhibition that turned out to be considerably less revealing than the second volume in John Richardson's ongoing biography of the artist, which was clearly the inspiration for it.

The late 20th century's fascination with Picasso seems to be short-circuiting on a circular argument: his art is fascinating because it reveals him to have been a fascinating man, because he was a fascinating man, his art is fascinating. There is something fatally wrong with both



Degas: Dancer looking at the Sole of Her Right Foot
Ursula and R Stanley Johnson Collection

these propositions. Besides, in the wake of such recent large and well-attended exhibitions as "Late Picasso", "Picasso and Things", "Picasso: Painter/Sculptor" and "Picasso and the Mediterranean", it is perhaps time for curators to stop treating his work, like that of the Impressionists, as an inexhaustible natural resource — and an easy way for them to meet their attendance quotas.

Perhaps the most ill-omened event of the year occurred on 1 October, when the Victoria & Albert Museum finally gave up politely inviting visitors to make

was further called into question by the publication of a report commissioned by the Trustees of the British Museum. Its author, a retired deputy secretary of the Treasury, Andrew Edwards, recommended that the British Museum also bring in compulsory charges to help combat its crippling deficit. His other recommendations were that the museum should market itself more aggressively (to make its displays less scholarly and more "popular") and that it should shed staff.

The museums in question will probably survive the introduction of charges more or less intact. There are grounds, too, to believe Dr Borg when he says that charging does not deprive the poor of the experience of museums: those who have done research in this area tell us that hardly any poor people go to museums, free or not, anyway. But that is no reason not to fight those who would seek to erode the principle of free admission. The founding fathers of the British Museum, full of grand Augustan self-confidence, declared that its primary function was to serve as a collection of national treasures "for the use and benefit of the public, who may have free access to view and peruse the same"; likewise, the eminent Victorians who founded the V&A were adamant that it should be a free national resource. The gap that separates us from them is, it seems, a large one. There is a long and commendable tradition in Britain of ensuring free public access to literature, art, and other materials of self-education and self-enlightenment — the public library system and the BBC are equally embattled manifestations of the philanthropic social principles that underlie that tradition. But our thin-skinned, mean-spirited politicians and civil servants would seem to regard philanthropy as a dirty word and social principles as tokens to be traded for votes. The introduction of charges at the V&A might not seem momentous to everyone. But it is yet another symbol of Britain's transition from a relatively generous and large-spirited society to a mean and small-minded one. The notion that all institutions should be run as if they were businesses is the madness of our time.



Twenty-three is the magic number: Stephen Bochco's 'Murder One'

BBC

Our Friends in the States

The old adage that US import equals trashy viewing was finally laid to rest, just as pseudo-science took over the schedules. By Thomas Sutcliffe

TELEVISION

I was a year that confounded some received opinions about British television. Who could really argue, for example, that American imports are little more than cheap filler for British schedules in a year that delivered *Murder One*, Stephen Bochco's imperial display of industry clout? *Murder One* wasn't perfect, but it disgraced itself with its final episode, but the gloss and style of the 22 that went before had an undeniable, extravagant force and converted this critic into a slavish viewer (not to mention the fact that it also possessed the Signature Time of the Year). In comedy, too, the Americans proved that their production-line technique, lavishly funded and prodigiously well staffed, could frequently defeat the two-man craft-shops of British sitcom. The Americans would be unlikely ever to produce something as wayward as *Father Ted*, easily the best British comedy of the year, but they are unlikely to worry too much given that they can turn out programmes like *Frasier* and *The Larry Sanders Show* with such consistency (the latter, incidentally, is not just comedy of the year but front-runner for Comedy of the Decade — savage, hilarious proof that irony is an indigenous American firm). I confess, too, that I finally capitulated to *Friends* (runner-up in the Signature Time category, with its bubble-gum homage to *The Monkees*), though it is best to

treat it as a radio programme, so that it is possible to enjoy the script without having to endure the gesticulating self-congratulation of the cast. In homegrown drama, the headline event was *Our Friends in the North*, although I never quite managed to match my genuine admiration for its ambition with any real warmth of feeling for the thing itself. In the more routine stretches of the schedules — the day-in, day-out feeding of that endless appetite for narrative — several things stood out: *This Life* was a witty, convincing account of an ecology rarely captured on television, the life of young single people in and out of their first jobs; *The Sculptress* restored a gothic shudder to the English detective serial; and *The Crow Road* showed that compelling drama need not follow the rules of the established genres.

Documentaries were in good shape too. *The House* proved that the traditional fly on the wall still had plenty of buzz left in it and *Modern Times* continued to stretch the established documentary techniques (a case in point would be Lucy Bakstad's documentary about flat-sharing, which used multiple cameras to film flat-mate interviews as the emotional dramas they are). It was also a year in which a new genre confirmed its existence. Fol-

lowing on the success of *The Real Holiday Show*, *Moving Houses* exploited the ability of hand-held video to get inside people's houses and their lives, a quality that also distinguished the best of the year's *Video Diaries* — a film about the rigours of adopting a foreign child.

Easily the most pernicious development of 1996 was the viral spread of paranormal programmes, a plague that announced its arrival on BBC with the televisual hobo of *Out of This World*, hosted by Carol Vorderman and several hundred kilos of dry ice. *Out of This World* compounded the sin of wilful credulity with that of hypocrisy, presenting itself as sceptical inquiry but undermining common sense at every turn, with tricks of lighting and verbal innuendo. Truly a bias against understanding.

There are antidotes to these triumphs of ignorance in the form of *Horizon* and *Equinox*, the second of which earned a Distinguished Conduct Medal for its documentary about the terrestrial origin of extraterrestrial sightings. Unfortunately the people who need the antidotes most are most unlikely to take them. Turkey of the Year (should you still feel peckish) was unquestionably *Wanted*, in which Channel 4 spent thousands of pounds on establishing beyond contradiction that watching people waiting in telephone boxes isn't very interesting.

And just what did we really, really want?

POP

The Spice Girls slipped in where Take That left off. And Techno terrorists went chartside. By Emma Forrest

It was the year that Britain's techno terrorists took over the pop charts. The Prodigy had two No 1 hits with "Firestarter" and "Breathe". Underworld's "Born Slippy" (taken from the *Trainspotting* soundtrack) dominated summer radio. The Chemical Brothers and Noel Gallagher had a No 1 with "Setting Sun" (an appropriation of The Beatles' "Tomorrow Never Knows", affectionately known as "Tomorrow Never Noels").

Tori Amos went the other way: her single "Professional Widow" didn't make much of an impact on the charts, but the re-mix by Armand Van Helden was the club-land hit of 1996.

After a disastrous performance at the Reading Festival, the Stone Roses finally called it a day (irrepressible bassist Mani defected to Primal Scream, while guitarist John Squire has written with Liam Gallagher). Their Manchester peers, the Charlatans, suffered the loss of their keyboardist Rob Collins in a car crash. But they returned with "One To Another", a kind of Nineties "I Will Survive" and the unchallenged single of the year.

Similarly, Manic Street

Preachers overcame the loss of guitarist Richey Edwards to produce *Everything Must Go*, their most accessible and successful album yet. Fellow Welsh boys Super Furry Animals made *Fuzzy Logic* — as innovative an album as Beck's *Odelay* but more fun to listen to.

The Spice Girls sold Girl Power to the nation's young females and then urged them to vote Tory. The post-break-up careers of the boys from Take That proved that context is everything. Away from his pals, band clown Robbie Williams became a drunken fool. Gary Barlow's solo effort was so tedious it made Céline Dion look like Frank Zappa. And little Mark Owens appears to be going for the Michael Jackson "I'm so creepy" market. Jackson's star fell as that of his evil nemesis Jarvis Cocker shot to the stratosphere. And Madonna, taking on the role of Evita, metamorphosed from pop tart to torch singer.

Blur spoke of their joy at being the underdogs again and of the spiritual enlightenment they have found while recording their new album in Iceland. Kula Shaker offered us their own danceable slices of mys-



The Spice Girls: the most convincing argument yet for joining the Young Conservatives?

tic mumbo-jumbo. A spate of Oasis biographies were published that almost all managed to make a dreary story out of the most exciting band in Britain. The exception was Paul Mathur's witty *Take Me There*, which was affectionate without being sycophantic.

On the rap front, The Fugees made it bug with their lifestyle album *The Score*, while LL Cool J bounced back with the brilliant re-mix of "Loving". Tupac was killed and Chuck D compiled a list of reasons trying to prove that the long-lashed gangsta had faked his own death.

Richard Fearless was the best DJ in London, taking up residency at The Heavenly Social (the club that launched The Chemicals).

The gig of the year was Bruce Springsteen, stripping it down at the Brixton Academy (where he sang a stunning "Born in the USA" without ever saying those words).

Hotly tipped for 1997 are Hurricane — Alan McGee's latest signing to Creation — and Kylie's collaboration with James Manic. Meanwhile, Björk is still unlistenable and Frank Sinatra is still not dead.

Tel: 0171 293 2222

APPOINTMENTS • Courses

Fax: 0171 293 2505

University of Ulster

Faculty of Informatics/Faculty of Engineering

The Interactive Systems Centre (ISC) at Magee College is a multi-disciplinary research, development and consultancy facility working in the field of multimedia interactive systems and microprocessor embedded applications in Information Technology. The ISC, which is supported by the International Fund for Ireland, has recently begun work on three major EU funded projects: TALENT (Training and Learning Environment with Networked Tutoring), PROMinent (The Promotion of OMI by a User Support Network Centre) and STEPCAM (A System Level Development Toolchain for Embedded Performance Critical Applications in a Universal Microcontroller).

Posts within TALENT/PROMinent are tenable until 30 September 1997, STEPCAM until 30 November 1998 in the first instance with the possibility of extension subject to funding.

Research Fellow: Project Manager - TALENT
Ref: C96/286/IND

To be responsible for the day-to-day research activities of the TALENT Project and the monitoring of progress according to the plan of work. Applicants must have a first or upper second class honours degree in computing and a minimum of 5 years' experience in the management of computer projects in both academic and industrial environments together with experience of interface between software design specifications and development, computing education development, presentation and assessment of computing and training and the ability to demonstrate extensive experience of Internet and related technologies for remote teaching/learning.

Starting Salary will be in the range £19,848 - £25,035

Research Fellow: Multimedia Development Tools - TALENT Ref: C96/287/IND

To maintain and manage the research and development activities of the TALENT Project. Applicants must have a first or upper second class honours degree in computing and at least 5 years' software development experience in a university or industrial environment together with strong software development skills including multimedia programming and software tools development.

Starting Salary will be in the range £19,848 - £21,519

Research Officer: WWW Development Tools - TALENT
Ref: C96/288/IND

To work on the design and development of software for the TALENT Project. Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or equivalent in computing, engineering or related discipline and at least 2 years' experience in the development of application software.

Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £19,848

Research Officer: Multimedia Development Tools - TALENT Ref: C96/289/IND

Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or equivalent in computing, engineering or related discipline and have at least 2 years' experience in the development of application software including at least 2 years' experience in systems and network administration. Strong software skills are essential as is experience of network design, configuration and management involving Mac, PC and Unix platforms.

Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £19,848

Research Assistant: Network Management - PROMinent Ref: J96/290/IND

Responsible for the design, specification and maintenance of the support centre's WWW pages and database requirements. Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or higher degree in computing, electronic engineering or a closely related discipline and must have experience of developing and maintaining WWW pages. Preference will be given to candidates who can demonstrate strong software design skills, knowledge of computer networks or database systems.

Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £15,154

Faculty of Engineering Research Officer: Microprocessor Development Tools - PROMinent
Ref: J96/280/IND

Responsible for engaging in research and development of microprocessor systems with particular emphasis on the requirements of local industry and a support centre network. Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or higher degree in electronic engineering, computing or related discipline, experience of microprocessor systems and appropriate software design tools. Preference will be given to applicants who have 2 years' postgraduate experience in either a university or industrial R&D environment.

Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £17,466

Research Officer: Microcontroller Toolset Design & Development - STEPCAM Ref: J96/298/IND

Responsible for contributing to the specification, design and development of a microcontroller toolset and the selection and implementation of problems that will adequately exercise and evaluate the toolset. Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or higher degree in computing, electronic engineering or a related discipline and demonstrate experience of microprocessor/microcontroller technology or embedded systems including hardware design and appropriate software design tools.

Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £17,466

Research Officer: Microcontroller Toolset Design & Training - STEPCAM Ref: J96/299/IND

Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or higher degree in electronic engineering or related discipline and demonstrate experience of microprocessor/microcontroller technology or embedded systems including hardware design and appropriate software design tools and the design and development of technical training systems using multimedia.

Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £17,466

Research Officer: Microcontroller Toolset Integration - STEPCAM
Ref: J96/300/IND

To be responsible for the specification of inter toolset communication standards and protocols, the application programming interfaces, the implementation of the integration of the tools, and the design of an open RTOS interface. Applicants must have a first or second class honours degree or higher degree in computing, electronic engineering or related discipline and must demonstrate knowledge of Windows NT operating systems, distributed systems and user interface design.

Starting Salary will be in the range £14,317 - £17,466

Salaries will be subject to funding and will be within the appropriate range for research staff

Research Assistant: £14,317 - £15,986
Research Officer: £14,317 - £21,519
Research Fellow: £19,848 - £25,035

Closing Date: 10 January 1997
Interview Dates: 21, 22 & 23 January 1997

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Recruitment Office, University of Ulster at Coleraine, Cromore Road, Coleraine, Co Londonderry BT52 1SA. Telephone: (01265) 324946 or internal extension 4957 (for posts with reference prefix C) and the University of Ulster at Londonderry, Newtownabbey, Co Antrim BT27 1QB. Telephone: (01232) 368222 or internal extension 8222 (for posts with reference prefix J).

An equal opportunity employer, the University encourages applications from both men and women, those with disabilities and those from all sections of the community. All applications will be considered on merit. The University has a policy whereby smoking is restricted to designated areas.

Lambeth College is a growing College with results improving year on year. With new buildings, new programmes and new ways to meet inner-city needs, our mission is to make a difference to our South London community - a difference in skills, opportunities and enterprise. We are looking for enthusiastic, committed people to join our staff and help us achieve that goal.

Are you interested in teaching part-time? Do you have working or teaching experience in the following subjects? If so, we are seeking people to join our register of part-time teachers.

Health Care, Childcare and Education
Basic Skills Support (Literacy/Numeracy/ESOL)
Special Needs (LDD) with vocational expertise
Construction including Timber Crafts, Decorative Studies, Electrical Installation, Plumbing, Building Services and Housing
Dyslexia Support
Business Studies, Information Technology, Secretarial Skills
Teeline, Multi-Media, Computer Graphics, Journalism, Desk-top Publishing
'A' Level Mathematics

For further information and an application form call our Recruitment Hotline on 0171-501 5555 (24 hour ansaphone) quoting reference VT1.



Meeting Needs
Making a Difference

Lambeth College is committed to increasing the skills of people in its Borough and beyond by providing high quality post-16 education, training, accreditation and guidance which is cost effective, and ensures equality of opportunity.

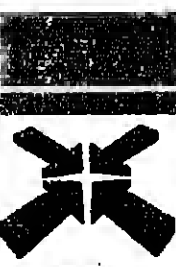
MECHANICAL
Lots of opportunities:
• automotive
• electro-mech
• utilities
From graduate level upwards.

Call Sue on
01442 878277
(AGY)

Are You A
Recent BEng
MEng PhD?
ASIC, RF,
Electronics?
Call
Peter Murphy
01442 878277
(AGY)



EASTER COURSES
AT
HERTFORD COLLEGE
OXFORD
A LEVEL GCSE
For a prospectus call:
01865 242670
or **01865 246119**
Cherwell Trust Education
Oxford OX1 1LD



Central Data Control Limited

Can you tell the difference between a const and a constructor? C/C++ devotees required for Junior Analyst/Programmer position in successful software development company. We are renowned for delivering state-of-the-art real-time graphical control and management information systems to the Security and Building Services markets. We require applicants to have at least a 2nd class degree in Computer Science, Electronics, or similar discipline, combined with some practical experience of working with MFCS, ISO Model Comms and Windows 3.1/NT4. Enthusiasm and professionalism ensure rapid responsibility for development projects and a good salary/benefits package. Is this you? If so, we're waiting for your CV.

All correspondence to be marked FAO:

Patrick Bossert, Technical Director, at the address left.

Do you know your EISA from your VESA? PC/Multimedia enthusiast with modest programming experience required for Junior Systems Integrator position in successful software development company. We specialise in providing state-of-the-art graphical control systems for the Security and Building Services markets. We require applicants to have at least a 2nd class degree in Computer Science, or similar discipline, combined with practical experience of configuring PC hardware, PC networking, and a good eye for graphic design. Enthusiasm and professionalism ensure rapid responsibility for client projects and a good salary/benefits package. Is this you? If so, we're waiting for your CV.

All correspondence to be marked FAO:

Michael Anderson, Technical Support Manager, at the address left.

A London based Shipbroking company is looking to fill the position of Chartering Manager for Russian desk.

Requirements to applicants:
- min. 3 years of Shipbroking experience
- In-depth knowledge of CIS shipping market (including locally controlled tonnage and client base)
- Russian speaker preferred.

Please apply in writing with CV to:
Box No. 11835 The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL

ALARM INSTALLER TRAINING COURSES

* Theory and practical to BS4737 * Certificate and business pack
* Full and complete instruction given for ALL Security Systems

NEW YEAR, NEW CAREER!

Alarm installers are always in demand - why not join them!

Short Courses in Regional Training Centres

Please call on for FREE information pack

01256 330256

SITO SECURITY TRAINING CENTRE

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS

St Peter's Campus, St Peter's Way, Sunderland S98 0DD

Tel: 0191 816 2788 Fax: 0191 816 2781

email: gillian.thompson@sunderland.ac.uk

MASTERS COURSES WITH JANUARY START DATES

MSc Decision Support Systems

• Current modelling and simulation techniques combined with industrial and commercial problem-solving

MSc Knowledge Engineering (Applied Artificial Intelligence)

• Develops high level skills, enabling you to act in industry as a professional knowledge engineer.

A number of training for Work funded places are available on these one-year full-time courses.

Further details from Gillian Thompson, Recruitment Officer

Lewisham College is one of the largest of London's Colleges of further education and is a leader in the provision of education and training. The College has 750 staff and 10,500 students whose work is enhanced by extensive contacts with the immediate community.

Lecturer with Responsibilities for Students with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities

2 posts, one full time and one FTE 0.7

£14,565 - £16,800 plus £2,001 LW (scale rate)

Required as soon as possible to teach Communications Skills and/or Numeracy, Personal Development and Careers Education to students who have been assessed as having moderate and/or severe learning difficulties.

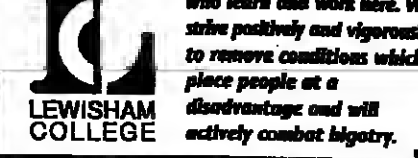
You must be actively committed to developing curriculum models and learning support systems which broaden the opportunities for their students.

A minimum of one year's teaching experience with students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities is essential for these two posts as is experience of initial assessment placement and enrolment of students. You must also possess a knowledge of current developments in Further Education and training and the accreditation system.

Further details and an application form are available from the Personnel Department, Lewisham College, Room 36, Breakspears Building, Lewisham Way, London SE4 1UT, or call our 24 hour answer service on 0181 694 2527.

Please quote ref LC/SLD. Closing date 3rd January 1997.

Lewisham College is committed to ensuring equality of opportunity for all who learn and work here. We strive positively and vigorously to remove conditions which place people at a disadvantage and will actively combat bigotry.



A Force for Change

YORK UNIVERSITY

TENURE TRACK JOINT APPOINTMENT, 1997-98

SCIENCE EDUCATION

YORK UNIVERSITY: Applications are invited for a newly-created position in Science Education jointly within the Faculty of Education (Home Faculty) and the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science.

THE POSITION: The successful candidate will have a strong basic education in one of the science disciplines as well as in Education and will have engaged in scholarly work in relevant areas such as philosophy, curriculum or policy of science education, teaching/learning/assessment, or the relationship of science, technology and society. Experience in teaching and conducting research on science curriculum, pedagogy, assessment or the use of technology in science education is desirable, as is experience in a multicultural context. Teaching experience at the elementary or secondary level will be considered an asset. The candidate will be expected to take a leadership role in the development of science education in both Faculties.

THE CANDIDATE: The candidate will have completed a doctorate and present evidence of broad engagement with the study and practices associated with the vacancy. The candidate must present evidence of the ability to establish a strong program of scholarly research, provide excellence and leadership in undergraduate and graduate teaching and supervision in both Faculties, collaborate with colleagues in the field and across the University, and be actively involved in the field of science education.

THE APPOINTMENT: While preference will be given to appointments at the Assistant Professor level, initial rank and salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience. Departmental assignment within the Faculty of Pure and Applied Science will be dependent upon experience. The appointment would normally commence 1 September 1997. York University is implementing a policy of employment equity, including affirmative action for women faculty. Both Faculties encourage applications from qualified people of colour, Aboriginal/First Nations people, and persons with disabilities.

APPLICATIONS: A detailed letter of application should address your qualifications and research in relation to the advertised position and to the context described above. Submit your curriculum vitae, one or two samples of your scholarly writing, and the names/addresses of three or more potential references to:

Joint Selection Committee
(Science/Education),
c/o Faculty of Education, S893 Ross,
York University, 4700 Keele Street, North York,
Ontario, Canada M3J 1P3.

FAX: 416-736-5609
INTERNET: hwarr@edu.yorku.ca (Beverly Merriman, Secretary to Committee), letters and CVs only can be sent online in WP format while scholarly materials must be mailed.

CLOSING DATE: Applications, postmarked up to 31 January 1997, will be accepted.

GCSE & A LEVEL TEACHERS PART-TIME VACANCIES

A small, independent, sixth form college with an outstanding record of academic success wishes to hear from energetic teachers. Working in small groups, the college is dedicated to unlocking academic potential through structure, supervision and support.

Part-time vacancies exist for the following subjects:
Accounting, Biology and Chemistry.
Apply in writing, quoting ref IND/19/12/96 enclosing a CV to:
The Principal, Ashbourne ISPC,
17 Old Court Place W8 4PL.

Ashbourne

LANGUAGE COURSES ABROAD!

MA • MSc • BA • BSc • BA • BSc • BA • BSc

COURSES STARTING EVERY FOURTH WEEK

...LASTING FROM 2 WEEKS TO 9 MONTHS

SUITABLE FOR ALL LEVELS, INCLUDING BEGINNERS

EF International Language Schools

CALL NOW FOR A BROCHURE ON: (0171) 735 6675

AD/HD Diagnostic and Treatment Centre

offering One Day Training Course Understanding

ADD&AD/HD

Condition, Medication, Management Strategies

Call for details: 0181 203 3562

Cost £75. Fax: 0181 202 2819

TEACHERS IN GREECE

Read from Dec '96 Degree/Diploma Certificate minimum

Send letter of application, CV and photograph to:

Cambridge Teachers Recruitment
25a Malsbury St.
New Malden
New Philadelphia
Athens, Greece
Tel: 0181 298 5723
Tel/Fax: 01 291 51 957/65

What's On

PHANTOM pmo & sport. C.O.R., The Turner 0171 823 8119



FACULTY OF SCIENCE, SCHOOL OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES

Chair in Human Nutrition (Diet and Health) Ref: C96/276/IND

The person appointed will manage the Centre for Diet and Health which has been newly established with funding from the EU Technology Development Programme. The aim of the Centre is to build upon the University's national and internationally recognised research expertise in Human Nutrition and to develop collaborative research and development programmes with the food industry. These include the scientific evaluation of the potential of specific functional foods and the elucidation of nutrient-gene interactions.

Applicants must hold a doctorate in human nutrition or a related discipline and have a substantial record of refereed publications. Proven ability/potential to attract major external research funding and experience of successful management of a research team are also essential. Applicants must also have had linkages/collaborations with the food industry and centres of internationally recognised research excellence and have the ability to strengthen links between the University of Ulster and the food industry, locally, nationally and internationally. It is desirable for applicants to have expertise in the areas of functional foods or nutrient-gene interaction and to have experience of collaboration with scientists in other relevant disciplines eg. molecular biology, genetics, immunology, biotechnology.

Salary: Not less than £32,000
Closing Date: 10 January 1997
Interview Date: 27 February 1997

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Recruitment Office, University of Ulster at Coleraine, Cromore Road, Coleraine, Co Londonderry BT52 1SA. Telephone: (01265) 324946 or internal extension 4957.

An equal opportunity employer, the University encourages applications from both men and women, those with disabilities, and those from all sections of the community. All applications will be considered on merit. The University has a policy whereby smoking is restricted to designated areas.

BSO

The British School of Osteopathy is a prestigious and well-established training establishment for osteopaths. During the final part of training, the students work with their own patients under supervision in the Clinic. It is for this Clinic that we require a self-motivated team player who is prepared to work flexible hours to cover our busy reception which is open 10 hours each day. Duties include dealing with telephone enquiries, booking patient appointments, and cashier duties. Candidates will have previous experience in customer facing role, and need to have GCSE Maths and English as a minimum requirement. If you are well spoken and are looking for a challenging position then we would like to hear from you. Please send a covering letter and an up to date CV to:

Emily Strover Human Resources Manager, The British School of Osteopathy, 1-4 Suffolk Street, London SW1Y 4HG.

Closing date: Thursday, 9 January 1997. <http://www.bso.ac.uk>

The British School of Osteopathy is a Registered Charity which educates osteopaths, treats patients and promotes research.

To advertise in the Recruitment Section please telephone
0171 293 2000



University of Sunderland

MASTERS COURSES WITH JANUARY START DATES

MSc Decision Support Systems

• Current modelling and simulation techniques combined with industrial and commercial problem-solving

MSc Knowledge Engineering (Applied Artificial Intelligence)

• Develops high level skills, enabling you to act in industry as a professional knowledge engineer.

A number of training for Work funded places are available on these one-year full-time courses.

Further details from Gillian Thompson, Recruitment Officer

01256 330256

business & city

Business news desk tel 0171-293 2636 fax 0171-293 2095
BUSINESS & CITY EDITOR: JEREMY WARNER

CE wins Northern takeover battle

Chris Godsmark
Business Correspondent

Northern Electric, the Tyne-side regional power supplier, has lost its fight against the £782m hostile takeover bid by US-owned CE Electric by the narrowest of margins and in almost unprecedented circumstances, following extraordinary last-minute support from the company's biggest investor, the Prudential.

The result, which remained on a knife-edge to the end, was almost swung in Northern's favour by the Prudential's move to buy shares in the company in support of the existing management from investors who had

previously accepted the US bid. By the close of the extended offer deadline of 1pm on Christmas Eve, CE Electric spoke for 50.30 per cent of Northern shares, a small increase on the 50.13 per cent support declared on Monday.

Victory for CE Electric followed the Takeover Panel's decision to reject an appeal by Northern against the deadline extension. Had the company won the appeal, CE Electric would have lost the battle, having gained only 49.77 per cent of shares by the original closing deadline of 1pm last Friday.

Northern has apparently decided to accept defeat and will

not seek to challenge the appeal result in the courts.

The buying spree by the Prudential on Christmas Eve netted more than 900,000 Northern shares at 650p a share, the same price as CE's all-cash offer. It represented a stake of 0.8 per cent, raising the Prudential's shareholding in Northern to more than 12 per cent. Sellers are thought to have included Fleming Investment Management, Commercial Union, Equitable Life and UBS, the Swiss banking group.

Salomon Brothers, the US investment bank, denied suggestions it had sold a stake to the Prudential. A spokesman said

the bank did not hold Northern shares.

Defending its action, a Prudential spokesman said: "Our interest is in shareholder value. We have agreed with the board of Northern and many independent commentators that 650p is too low. If an offer were to be made at the right price we would expect the board of Northern to recommend the offer."

Though the result spells the end of another epic struggle by David Morris, Northern's chairman, who fended off a bid by Trafalgar House, the inquest into the defence tactics employed by the company and its brokers BZW is far from over.

BZW faces an investigation by the Takeover Panel into the controversial £250,000 "performance" fee agreed with Northern.

The panel will try to establish why BZW did not move to alert it of the arrangement until last Thursday night, the day after it bought 2.3 per cent of the company's shares in an attempt to boost its bid defence.

A BZW spokesman maintained the fee was in no way related to success or failure of the Northern defence, and that "strenuous" efforts had been to contact panel officials about the fee on Thursday evening. In another development, it has

emerged that the £250,000, which is 0.01 per cent of a flat-rate fee to BZW of around £1.5m, could be blocked permanently by the panel. It had been frozen pending the outcome of Northern's appeal.

As he headed back to the US for Christmas, David Sokol, chairman of power generator CalEnergy, which controls CE Electric, said he was delighted with the outcome. He said: "We think this is a victory for the majority in face of considerable odds. We now look forward to returning the company to its more normal business of serving its customers."

Though Mr Sokol was seek-

ing an orderly handover of power at Northern's Newcastle headquarters, a wholesale clearance of board directors was now in prospect. Only Ron Dixon, the commercial director, has been asked to stay on at the company, but is thought to have expressed a wish to leave.

However, Northern's board will not disappear empty-handed. Executive directors, who were on two-year rolling contracts, are likely to receive pay-offs totalling more than £2m.

Mr Morris, who earned total pay last year of £296,000, including pension contributions, could see a pay-off of some £600,000. In addition, Mr Mor-

ris will make £39,635 from share options. Tony Hadfield, chief executive, earned £374,000 last year and could receive a pay-off of more than £800,000.

Unions want to meet with Mr Sokol to clarify the future for the company's 3,400 staff. BZW has asked us to point out that fees of £1.5m and £250,000 in connection with its defence of Northern Electric were agreed in writing by Northern on 27 November. BZW said it found the suggestion in *The Independent* on 24 December that it had last week "asked for" the £250,000 to be paid "very misleading" and wanted to make this position clear.

Sunderland scores on trading debut

Patrick Toohar

Investors in Sunderland football club received an early Christmas present on Tuesday when shares in the Premier League club made a stunning stock market debut.

The shares, offered to investors at 585p, closed at 732.5p, valuing the club at almost £60m. The substantial premium means fans who subscribed for the minimum application of 100 shares are already sitting on a paper profit of £147.50.

The success of the flotation was virtually guaranteed last week when Sunderland revealed that the public tranche was 2.7 times oversubscribed. Strong demand for Sunderland's shares also underlines the stock market's hungry appetite for all things football as a growing band of clubs line up for a stock market listing to improve their financial clout both on and off the field.

It also provides further proof that success on the pitch is not a prerequisite for a good performance on the stock market. Shares in Tottenham Hotspur, for example, have been among the 20 biggest risers on the London stock market this year, yet

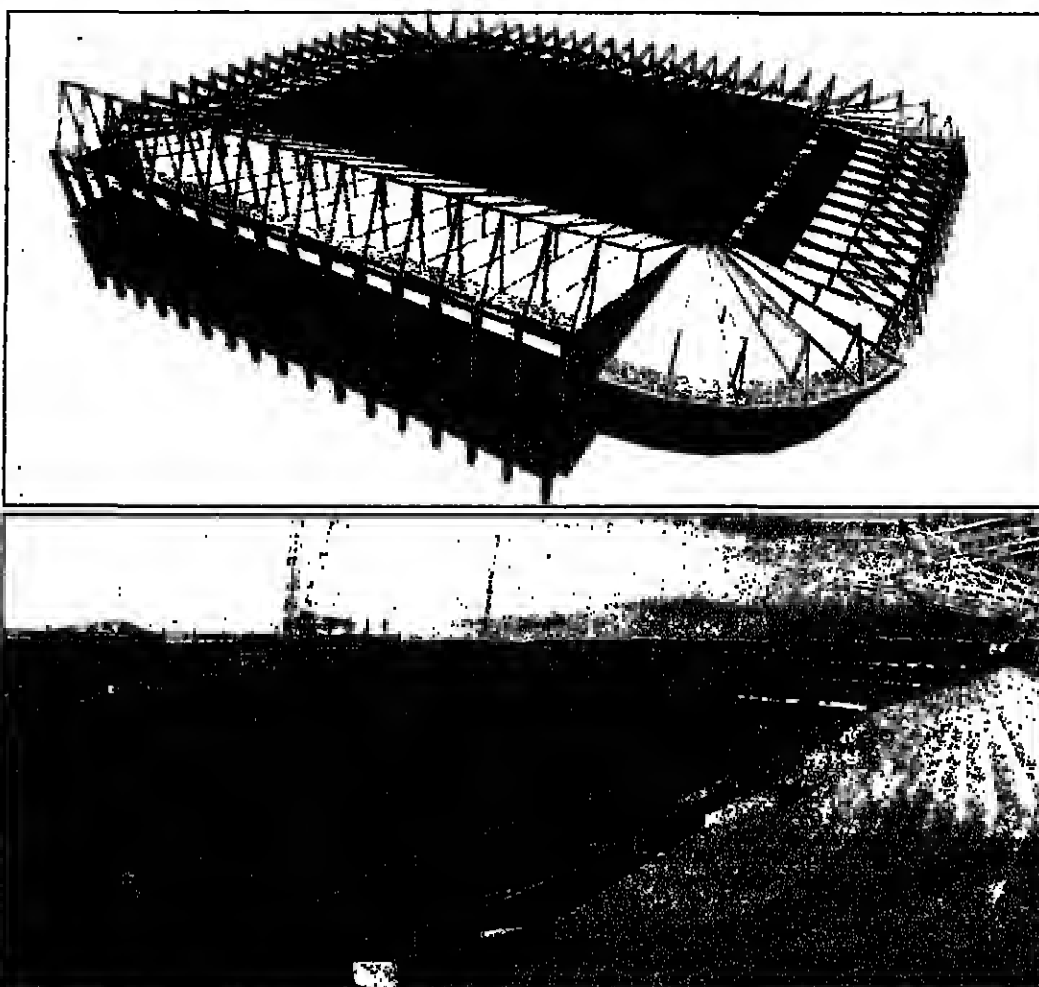
the team has struggled to put three passes together all season.

Sunderland have spent most of the season flirting with relegation and last Saturday were trounced 5-0 at Manchester United - the biggest defeat in Peter Reid's managerial career at Roker Park.

Newcastle, West Bromwich Albion, Birmingham City, Southampton and Sheffield United are set to go public in the new year. Investors are attracted by the prospect of substantially enhanced television income from the screening of live matches on a pay-per-view basis.

Meanwhile, it emerged over the Christmas holiday that Southampton has rebuffed an offer from a consortium led by Sir David Frost to take a stake in the club, insisting that it would proceed with its plan to reverse into Secure Retirement, a listed healthcare and property company. In a statement issued on Tuesday, the company said it was bound by its agreement with Secure Retirement, adding that it appreciated Sir David's offer of "assistance".

Sunderland, promoted from Division One as champions last season, are expected to increase media income to increase more than tenfold to £3.5m



Proud prospect (clockwise from top left): Sunderland's plans for the new £17.25m stadium, where the manager Peter Reid will be watching his team perform from next year when construction at the Monkwearmouth site, now well advanced, will be completed. Photographs: North News

this season, helped by a deal signed last summer between the Premier League and BSkyB. Analysts believe there is enough money sloshing around to satisfy all the top clubs.

"We are not at saturation point," said Nick Knight, of Japanese investment bank Nomura. "Sunderland and Southampton are relatively small clubs compared with New-

castle and Man Utd but they are still going to have access to some chunky television revenue."

Sunderland tapped the equity market in part to meet the costs of building its new stadium,

which had forecast a pay-out of 2.2p per share. Including the dividends, the offer values each Burnfield share at 160p, a 65 per cent premium over the share price on 16 December, just before the hostile offer was announced. The shares closed on Tuesday at 142p.

The original offer had been for £51m, in the form of 90c new Burnfield shares for each 92 Burnfield shares, and represents an 11 per cent increase.

In addition, shareholders would get dividends from both Fairey and from Burnfield, which had forecast a pay-out of 2.2p per share. Including the dividends, the offer values each Burnfield share at 160p, a 65 per cent premium over the share price on 16 December, just before the hostile offer was announced. The shares closed on Tuesday at 142p.

The original offer had been for £51m, in the form of 90c new Burnfield shares for each 92 Burnfield shares, and represents an 11 per cent increase.

The bid is still conditional on Burnfield not proceeding with the proposed £24m acquisition of Ling Dynamic Systems, the privately owned vibration

equipment company, or the associated sever-for-10 rights issue at 90p a share, aimed at raising £20.5m.

Fairey is keen to develop its industrial electronics businesses and repeated its claims that two companies could be profitably combined.

"The Burnfield companies are a good fit with two of Fairey's process technology businesses, LaserMike and Particle Measuring Systems," John Poulter, Fairey's chief executive said.

The hostile bid has sparked a war of words between the two

companies, with Fairey savaging Burnfield's acquisition record and the target company criticising Fairey's record on creating shareholder value.

Burnfield recently sold its four temperature and pressure businesses for a loss of £12m.

The initial bid from Fairey was rejected as far too low and opportunistic by Burnfield, which called on shareholders to support plans by management to complete the LDS acquisition. Shareholders will vote on the LDS deal, as well as the rights issue, at a special meeting on 30 December.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

By buying Railfreight Distribution (RfD), EWS would bring together operations that the Government had intended to sell separately. The sale of the three rail freight companies to EWS early this year attracted criticism from the Opposition. The move exposed the "fiction of rail competition," a Labour spokesman said.

The heavily subsidised RfD, which links Britain to continental Europe through the Channel Tunnel, had losses of £58.6m in 1995/96 and is not expected to turn a profit for several years. BR has written off debt of £300m and made additional provisions of £200m against future liabilities, largely the cost of paying Eurotunnel, the Channel Tunnel operating company, for access.

RfD operates freight services to Italy, France, Spain and Germany, and runs about 160 trains a week.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

BSkyB revives pitch for BBC pay service

Mathew Horsman
Media Editor

BSkyB, Rupert Murdoch's satellite broadcaster, is continuing to press for an equity stake in the new BBC-Flextech pay-TV channels, in return for carrying the services on its satellite system, the *Independent* has learned.

Negotiations to secure satellite carriage for up to eight pay-TV channels are set to resume in the new year, with BSkyB's chief executive, Sam Chisholm, determined to take up to 30 per cent in the venture. To date, both the BBC and Flextech, the US-controlled pay-TV pack-

ager, have resisted BSkyB's offer of an equity investment, preferring to reach a carriage-only agreement with the UK's leading pay broadcaster.

The new channels are to cost £140m over four years to develop, with Flextech carrying the financial burden. The BBC would supply programming.

The drawn-out negotiations have had the effect of delaying parallel talks between BSkyB and the new Channel 5, which is also eager to reach a carriage

agreement for satellite distribution. Channel 5 is keen to supplement its over-the-air coverage of about 80 per cent, which will be reached using a terrestrial signal, with side carriage agreements on both satellite and cable systems.

"Until BSkyB has decided what it is going to do about [BBC-Flextech], they are not able to assign transponder space to us," said David Elstein, chief executive of Channel 5 Broadcasting. Channel 5, owned by Pearson, United

News & Media and Luxembourg-based CLT, is also looking into securing a transponder on its own, using Pearson's close ties with Astra, the satellite company. Pearson has 6.5 per cent of Astra.

Mr Elstein said the company had not yet decided whether to offer the new channel to all satellite subscribers in the UK (through the so-called "soft encryption" option) or only to those who have smart cards.

BSkyB has 4 million subscribers in the UK, who use a smart card to watch 40 pay-TV channels. Another 500,000 households have satellite dishes and decoders, but have not paid subscription fees for smart-card services and so do not receive any Sky programming.

The Flextech-BBC deal, announced last year, is part of the BBC's plans to take the public service broadcaster into the digital age. In addition to the new channels, the BBC plans to make its core services, BBC1 and BBC2, available on all available digital platforms, supplemented by a 24-hour news channel, an educational channel and other viewer services.

Fairey boosts offer for Burnfield

Mathew Horsman

Fairey Group, the electronics and engineering manufacturing specialist, has made an "increased and final offer" for Burnfield which values the measuring equipment company at £57.7m.

The higher offer, which came after the Stock Exchange closed on Christmas Eve, is in the form of 25 new Fairey shares for each 92 Burnfield shares, and represents an 11 per cent increase.

In addition, shareholders would get dividends from both Fairey and from Burnfield,

which had forecast a pay-out of 2.2p per share. Including the dividends, the offer values each Burnfield share at 160p, a 65 per cent premium over the share price on 16 December, just before the hostile offer was announced. The shares closed on Tuesday at 142p.

The original offer had been for £51m, in the form of 90c new Burnfield shares for each 92 Burnfield shares, and represents an 11 per cent increase.

The bid is still conditional on Burnfield not proceeding with the proposed £24m acquisition of Ling Dynamic Systems, the privately owned vibration

equipment company, or the associated sever-for-10 rights issue at 90p a share, aimed at raising £20.5m.

Fairey is keen to develop its industrial electronics businesses and repeated its claims that two companies could be profitably combined.

"The Burnfield companies are a good fit with two of Fairey's process technology businesses, LaserMike and Particle Measuring Systems," John Poulter, Fairey's chief executive said.

The hostile bid has sparked a war of words between the two

companies, with Fairey savaging Burnfield's acquisition record and the target company criticising Fairey's record on creating shareholder value.

Burnfield recently sold its four temperature and pressure businesses for a loss of £12m.

The initial bid from Fairey was rejected as far too low and opportunistic by Burnfield, which called on shareholders to support plans by management to complete the LDS acquisition. Shareholders will vote on the LDS deal, as well as the rights issue, at a special meeting on 30 December.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

By buying Railfreight Distribution (RfD), EWS would bring together operations that the Government had intended to sell separately. The sale of the three rail freight companies to EWS early this year attracted criticism from the Opposition. The move exposed the "fiction of rail competition," a Labour spokesman said.

The heavily subsidised RfD, which links Britain to continental Europe through the Channel Tunnel, had losses of £58.6m in 1995/96 and is not expected to turn a profit for several years. BR has written off debt of £300m and made additional provisions of £200m against future liabilities, largely the cost of paying Eurotunnel, the Channel Tunnel operating company, for access.

RfD operates freight services to Italy, France, Spain and Germany, and runs about 160 trains a week.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale by early 1997.

The British Railways Board said on Tuesday it hoped to complete the sale

sport

SPORTS QUOTES OF 1996: Mum has the last word in a year of sage sayings and verbal vigour. Compiled by Rob McLean

Why didn't you just belt it?

Barbara Southgate to her son Gareth after his penalty miss against Germany in Euro 96

I've only taken one penalty before, for Crystal Palace at Ipswich. I hit the post and we went down that year. But I think I'd be far more comfortable now than I was then. Gareth Southgate, England defender, tempts fate before the semi-final.

No matter how much the other players try to console me, I'm still left with the feeling that I let everybody down. Southgate. If you cut me open and had a look inside right now it couldn't be a pretty sight. I don't know if I can sink any lower. Gary McAllister, Scotland captain, on his crucial penalty miss against England.

It's a Bavarian state law that beer isn't alcohol. It's a means of nutrition. Jürgen Klinsmann at the height of the "boozy England" furore.

He's a nice man with a nice family so it's difficult to kick him. Tony Adams on Arsenal team-mate Dennis Bergkamp before the England v Netherlands game.

Before the competition, everyone was laughing about England and their style. They will not be laughing now. Bergkamp after his side's 4-1 defeat to England. Not only the cows are mad in England. The English press is also infected. *El Mundo Deportivo* newspaper, after Spain-bashing stories before the quarter-final.

Why are the English the only people in the world who still claim the ball crossed the line in the 1966 final? *Bild*, German paper, during the jingoistic press build-up to the semi-final. I didn't see the ball. It's not my problem whether it crossed the line. If it did I would remind you: this is how England won the 1966 World Cup. Bobby Mitchell, Bulgaria's goalkeeper, after television replays showed that Romania had been denied an equaliser.

A goalkeeper is a goalkeeper because he can't play football. Roud Gullit, BBC pundit, after the antics of Russia's Stanislav Cherchesov gifted Italy a goal. You don't have to have been a horse to be a jockey. Arrigo Sacchi, coach of Italy, defends his limited playing career, before Euro 96.

There are two possibilities from this tournament. Either I shall be kissed all over my bald head or I will have tomatoes thrown at it. Sacchi, after Italy failed to make the quarter-finals. Being an ex-England manager, one that failed to qualify for the World Cup, is like being a dead politician. Graham Taylor.

The greatest manager of all time. Kevin Keegan on the late Bob Paisley. Shanks built the team and Bob carried it on. People say it was easy to take over the reins. Look at what happened to Souness. He took over the reins and the horses ran wild. Stan Boardman, souce comedian.

Whoever doesn't like Atletico winning ought to die. Jesus Gil y Gil, the ever quotable president of Atletico Madrid.

This is the signing for the people of Newcastle. Kevin Keegan spends £15m on Alan Shearer. I'll always be a sheaf metal worker's son from Newcastle. Alan Shearer introduces himself to the Geordie borders.

A waste of money. Gullit, Chelsea manager, on the Shearer transfer.

I am just Asprilla the crazy man. I am just like a little baby at heart. Faustino Asprilla, Newcastle's Colombian striker who joined the club for £7.5m. They've nicknamed me Ena

Sharples because my head's never out of the net. Ian Thain, Keith goalkeeper, after letting in 10 goals against Rangers in the Scottish Cup.

I think having Wasps around here gives us that little buzz around the place. Ray Wilkins, then QPR manager, on the Loftus Road ground-share.

There's nobody fitter at his age, except maybe Raquel Welch. Ron Atkinson on Gordon Strachan.

It might be enough for the homeless but out for a top international striker. Pierre Van Hooydonk, Celtic's Dutch international striker, rejects the club's reported salary offer of £7,000 a week.

Sometimes I would have to go next door to get fed. I have seen people starving, and I know that side of life. Dwight Yorke, Aston Villa striker, on his childhood in Trinidad and Tobago. We are skint. We are desperate for money, we have no sponsorship and we are selling the gear to have a night out. There is nothing wrong with that after four years' hard training. Tony Ali and Robert Morgan, two of Britain's Olympic divers, justify selling their team kit on the streets of Atlanta.

The British public only care every four years and then they wonder why we can't produce the goods. Swimmer Paul Palmer, Britain's first medal winner in Atlanta, rues the lack of cash for British sport. We are drowning out there and we have become a laughing stock. David Wilkie, Britain's former 200m gold medalist, on the British swimming team's performance in Atlanta.

All I do is eat, sleep, and train six hours a day, six days a week. Michelle Smith, Ireland's multiple Olympic gold swimming medal winner, responds to drug innuendo about her dramatic improvement.

If anyone sees me go over a boat again, they have got my permission to shoot me. Steven Redgrave, British rower, after winning his fourth Olympic gold, in the coxed pairs. I think the oldest rower to win a gold medal was 42. So I might have another couple of Olympics in me. Redgrave changes his mind.

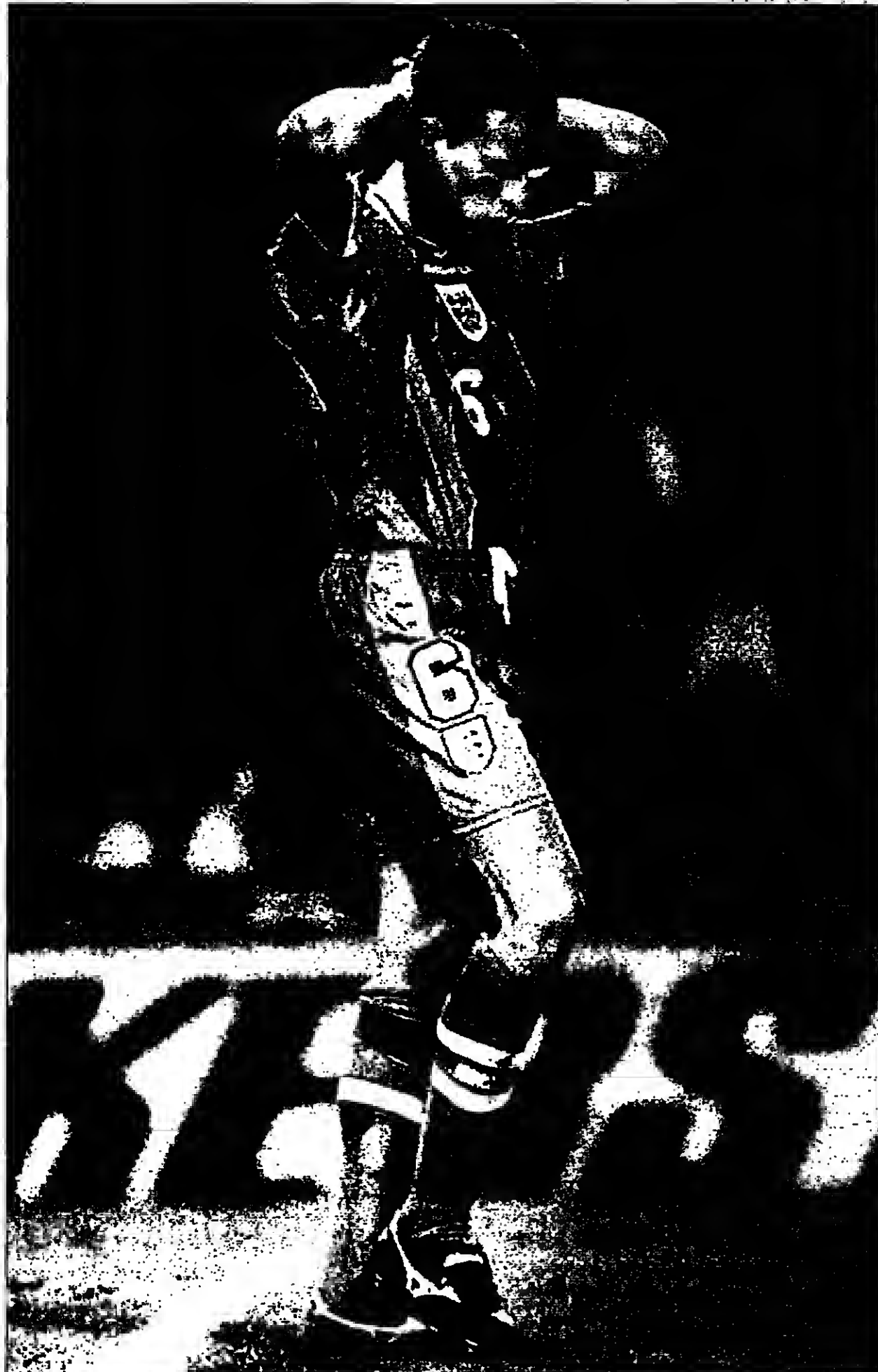
Life is a bitch, but that is it for me. I'll be 40 in the next Olympics. Linford Christie after his false-start disqualification in the 100 metres final. The way Christie behaved was disrespectful. If I'd false-started twice I'd have just left. Ato Boldon, Trinidad's bronze medalist.

When you are in a race with Michael Johnson, there are two races going on. One with him and the other with the rest. Roger Black, Britain's silver medalist in the 400m. I'm very consistent. I try to hit everybody. Charles Barkley, forward with the United States basketball team.

It was heart attack time for me. A split second later and a guy wearing all the wrong clothes would have dashed out there and become the most famous production assistant in history. Don Mischer, Olympic opening ceremony producer, after Muhammad Ali nearly failed to light the Olympic flame.

Any suspicious person not stopping at a security check will be shot. A Pakistani cricket official on crowd control methods in the World Cup.

British lion weak in the paw. long in the tail. England walked



End game: Gareth Southgate walks away after missing the penalty that proved decisive as England lost to Germany in the semi-finals of Euro 96, at Wembley in June. Photograph: PA

to the gallows like criminals rather than martyrs. *Indian Express*, after England's World Cup defeat by Iran in New Zealand. We couldn't beat a team of Eskimos. Ian Botham on England's World Cup. Will someone remove this huffoon? Mike Atherton, England captain, to Pakistani journalist. He had a pizza last night. Now it's on the field out there. Ray Illingworth, chairman of selectors, after Neil Smith was sick during a World Cup match against the UAE.

I don't particularly care if a guy is green, yellow with pink spots and comes from Mars. If I'm

playing sport against him, I'm playing sport against him. Botham, accused of being a racist by Imran Khan. Imran and I are not on talking terms. Yes, I once said he should be stoned to death, but I think in this case he was in the right. Sarfaraz Nawaz on Imran v Botham and Lamb. Ian never got me out in 15 years but his boy gets me out in seven. Mike Gatting after being dismissed by Botham's son, Liam, who was making his first-class debut for Hampshire, against Middlesex. He could show the youngsters how to roll a joint, but that's

about all. Ian Chapple on the prospect of Botham joining the England management. This has to be one of the finest courses Chris Bonington ever built. The PGA are providing oxygen on the first and 10 tees. Mark Roe, golfer, on the high-altitude setting for the Madeira Open. This will help me in terms of moosey, my ranking - and women. Roberto Carretero on becoming the first qualifier to win golf's German Open. He bored me to tears. He went to the toilet at least four times in one and a half frames. Chris Small, snooker player, after

losing to Karl Broughton in the International Open. NBA players are smart enough to know you get the virus from unprotected sex, and we're not going to have unprotected sex on the basketball court. Rory Selkaly, Golden State centre, showing no anxiety about facing Magic Johnson after his return to basketball. Unless people see me on the ski slope, they think I'm an accident-prone berk. Eddie Edwards makes another comeback. I have the body of a man half my age. Unfortunately, he's in terrible shape. George Foreman, a sprightly 48.

'The charisma of a jellyfish'

THE BAD THE MAD - AND GAZZA

You know if everything is going well, you get drunk for a couple of days. Paul Gascoigne on life at Rangers.

Gazza is not longer a fat, drunk, imbecile... he is in fact a football genius. *Daily Mirror* editorial headed "Mr Paul Gascoigne: An Apology", after his Euro 96 goal against Scotland. I'm a disgrace. Gascoigne, who beat up his wife and was sent off playing for Rangers against Ajax in the same week. Gascoigne has created a monster for himself. Desmond "Naked Ape" Morris, human behaviour expert.

I looked in the mirror and I didn't like what I saw. Tony Adams, of Arsenal and England, confesses to being an alcoholic. It took a lot of bottle for Tony to own up. Ian Wright.

You walk along the street and people say you're a coward, that you missed penalties, that you're fat, even that you're a junkie. Nobody has the right to make my daughters cry. Diego Maradona. I have not ruled out the fear that Diego could suddenly die on a football pitch or walking down the street. Ricardo Grimsdon, a doctor treating Maradona for cocaine abuse.

We don't need people like Vinnie Jones, who is just a self-hyped personality. He isn't a good player and is of no benefit to the game. Gary Lineker, former England captain, and BBC sports presenter.

Lineker has the charisma of a jellyfish - and he is just as wet. He is a jellyfish without a sting. Jones fights back.

Before that I was like a child, sort of waiting to do the next stupid thing. But what I have learned is not to make the same mistake twice. Eric Cantona on his long-fu kick and the community service sentence it earned him.

You know Dennis Wise. He could start a fight in an empty house. Alex Ferguson. I know where he should have put his flag up, and he'd have got plenty of help. Ron Atkinson on an errant linesman. The referee was booking everyone. I thought he was filling in his lottery numbers. Ian Wright. It is a very sad day for English football. Players get stiek all the time from the fans, but it seems you cannot have a go back. Mark Bosnich, Aston Villa goalkeeper, on his Nazi salute to Tottenham fans.

He doesn't know anything. Every time I see him I feel sick. Brad Gilbert, Andre Agassi's coach, on Ronnie Lething, Thomas Muster's coach.

His comments probably come from eating too many hamburgers with English meat. Muster on Agassi, who accused the Austrian of paranoia. You short-brained or what? We go to Eurosport after the match and we check out the replay. If I am right, you'll never be on oo the chair again. Michael Stich, former Wimbledon champion, to umpire Richard Kaufman.

We are more important than the Catholic Church. Juan Antonio Samaranch, IOC life president, loses the plot completely.

'There is peace in our time'

RUGBY RUCKS AND CIVIL WAR

You can't dissolve a tournament like the Five Nations over the telephone. Bill Bishop, outgoing Rugby Football Union president, after England had been thrown out by the other home unions over the TV deal with Sky.

Democracy no longer prevails within the RFU. The television negotiators have taken a quick fix. Cliff Brittle, RFU chairman, on the Sky deal. Most players are fed up with the whole thing. Will Carling, former England captain, on the constant wrangling between the RFU and its top clubs.

English rugby was haemorrhaging. Really drenched oo everybody. People wanted to know why we were tearing each other apart. Tony Hallett, the RFU secretary, as rugby union's civil war was resolved.

There is peace in our time. Colin Hurrell, RFU treasurer. There are many evils in the world and two of the worst are moosey and greed. Everything is now geared towards winning. You didn't see the professional fouls in the past and you do now, and the game's social side

has disappeared. Willie McBride, former Lions captain, on the modern game. I'm 48, an ageing dinosaur. My perspective is moulded by my age. But I hate everything that's happened. Friendship and loyalty have been smashed. Andy Ripley, former England No 8, on the turmoil in British rugby. Being dropped and Take That splitting up on the same day is enough to finish anyone off. Martin Bayfield keeps his sense of humour after being left out of the England union team to face Scotland.

We've got to have a few thugs. Scott Gibb, Welsh RU international, calls for more RL internationals to be brought back. The League could not promote blanket sales in Alaska. Ken Arthurson, Australian Rugby League chairman, dismisses proposals by the British Rugby League to run Super League in Australia.

If Rupert Murdoch told you to go down to Central Park tomorrow and expose yourself, you would. Caller to Rugby League chief executive Maurice Lindsay on *C4's Nightports*.

'He looks terrified'

CHOKES OF THE YEAR

It's not the end of the world. I screwed up but I'm not a loser. I've got 40 million bucks. Greg Norman, after his defeat by Nick Faldo in the Masters, when he blew a six-shot lead on the final day.

They just sat and watched, which was kind of eerie for a golf tournament. Faldo on the final-round atmosphere.

I played like shit, that's what happened. Norman, after being asked by a reporter what happened.

In that moment Nick went up in my estimation. We both had tears in our eyes. It was something very special. Norman on Faldo at the death.

It's amazing how many people beat you at golf when you're no longer president. George Bush. He looks terrified. I've ever seen a champion look less like a champion. New York boxing writer as Frank Bruno climbed into the ring before his world title defence to Mike Tyson. He wasn't as good as 1989 but

he was a darn sight better than I thought he was going to be. Bruno on Tyson after losing. It hurts when people get the idea that I'm some kind of pantomime freak. Bruno.

The last time Bruno fought Tyson I had a bet on Frank. But I also had a bet on Elvis Presley sitting at ringside. John H Stracey, former world welterweight champion.

I am just looking forward to expressing a lot of pain. Mike Tyson before his world heavyweight title fight against Evander Holyfield.

There's no cooties. It's a complete and total mismatch. Mickie Duff, promoter, predicts Holyfield's destruction by Tyson.

No one realises that when I was training for this fight my sparring partners were whipping me up. It was discouraging but I prayed and I got through it. I was going to be prepared. Holyfield, after beating Tyson. I have the greatest respect for

you. I just want to shake your hand. Tyson to Holyfield. I can't remember a thing after the third round. Tyson.

I got paid far too much money to think about quitting boxing. I got \$30m for stepping into the ring. Tyson, after his defeat. Everyone has talked about our collapse but that doesn't do justice to what Manchester United achieved. Kevin Keegan, Newcastle manager, after his side collapsed during the title run-in.

All I can do is apologise to all my fans. I feel really sorry for them. Andre Agassi, after going out in the first round to Doug Flach at Wimbledon.

My only desire now is to get drunk. I've lost all my skills as a player. Alexander Volkov, tennis player, in defeat.

If you have a good team but a bad management, you can maybe get along. But if you have a bad team and a bad management you get ****. Brian Lara after West Indies' World Cup defeat to Kenya.

'Hill showed he was the weakest'

HILL AND HENMAN

Right now I feel like I'm on a rocket that's about to take off. Damon Hill, after being crowned Formula One world champion.

I've got to stop now because I've got a lump in my throat. Forgive us in Australia. New Zealand, Canada and everywhere else if we feel emotional, because that's our boy. Murray Walker, BBC motor racing commentator, celebrates Hill's success.

Hill clearly showed he was the weakest because with the best car it took him so long to become world champion. Nikki Lauda, former world champion.

Please don't think I hate Damon. If I wasn't a racing driver we could have been friends. He has his days, like a woman before periods. Michael Schumacher. Maybe he doesn't like Schumachers. Michael's brother Ralf, on Hill's decision not to join him at Jordan.

I'm not concerned about being British No 1. I'm interested in improving my world ranking. That's what matters. Henman. It could only happen in Britain. At the French Open last week they even allowed Yannick Noah to sing a song on Centre Court. David Lloyd, British Davis Cup captain, oo the decision to put Tim Henman, Britain's No 1, on an outside court at Queen's.

The Royal Box was practically empty. You have to ask where their priorities lie. Obviously, you cannot interrupt the great British lunch. Buster Mottram, former British No 1, after Henman had played his quarter-final against Todd Martin to a half-empty Centre Court.

When I look at all the attention I've received this year, God only knows what it would be like if I ever won Wimbledon. Henman.

We are broke. Everything is gone. Diane Modahl, British athlete, on the high price of trying to clear her name of drugs charges.

Women compete better after an orgasm, especially high jumpers and runners. Israeli scientist Alexander Olshametzky, urging his nation's athletes to have sex at the Olympics.

I try to keep my bra on at all times. Georgie Hill, Damon's wife, explains how she avoids being a "distraction" after rumours that Jean Alesi's girlfriend had been banned from the pits.

You look very nice this evening, Sue. But don't take that as a compliment. I'm visually impaired. Simon Jackson, Paralympic judo gold medalist, to Sue Barker during the BBC's *Sports Review of the Year*.

Our last referee only had one eye. We played on his blind side. Mary Mangham, striker with Argyle Bombers five-a-side team, Stockton-on-Tees, average age 82.

The worst thing about playing for Great Britain is the sleeveless shirts. It means you have to shave your armpits before every game. Karen Brown, hockey international.

I caught with a good right to the jaw and lots of body shots. Lloyd Honeyghan, former world welterweight champion, after attempting to stop three girls shoplifting.

Ms Ferguson is a friend of mine. But there is nothing else. Thomas Muster, tennis world No 3, on rumours of a romance with the Duchess of York.

It's very hard on our family, and if this is business, I don't like business. Steffi Graf, world tennis No 1, on her father's problems with tax evasion.

If you read the papers, you'd think she belongs in hospital. The injuries are just an excuse ahead of time in case she needs it. If you look at her today, she's running like a gazelle. She could run the Olympic 400 me-

tres. Martina Navratilova, former world No 1, who thought Graf was faking injury problems.

Martina is lucky she doesn't have to live with these injuries. She should know better than to say these things after all the time we've known each other. Graf.

With all of the comments some of you have made that I'm not strong enough or mentally tough enough at the end, I proved - not only today but in the past - that's not the case. Jana Novotna, renowned for "choking", replies to her critics after beating Monica Seles in the Olympic tennis quarter-finals.

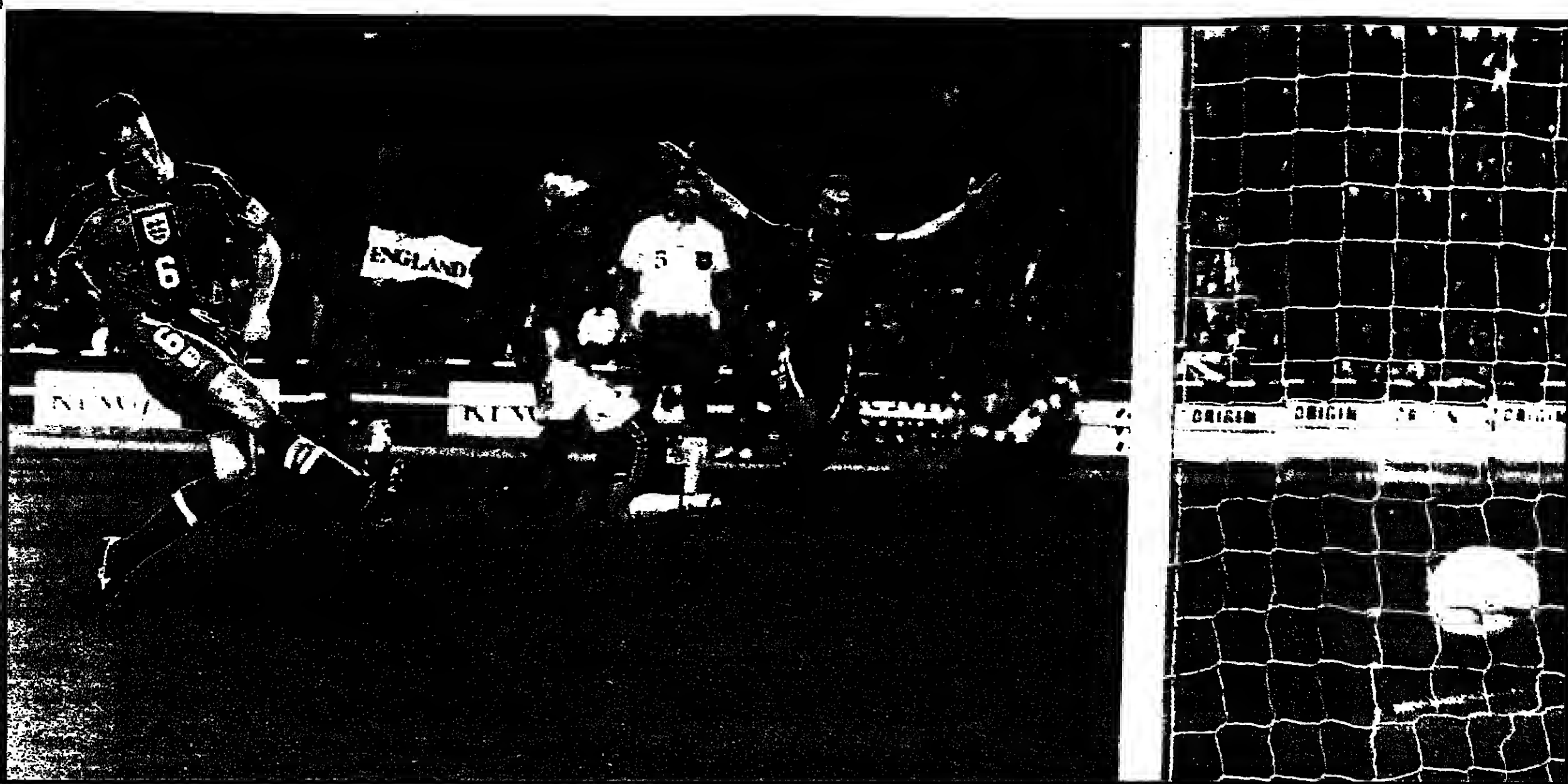
Once I even bought a blonde wig so as not to be recognised. Gabriela Sabatini, on her retirement from women's tennis.

Out there it's every man for himself. Alex Greaves, who became the first woman to compete in the Derby.

sport

One shot, one point, one penalty kick – all can change sporting history. **Greg Wood** considers what might have been in 1996

...and what if he had done?



Born winner: Gareth Southgate makes light of the pressure and cracks home his penalty to keep England on course for shoot-out success against Germany in the Euro 96 semi-final at Wembley

Photomontage: Jonathan Anstee

WHAT IF

Gareth Southgate had scored from *that* penalty?

I was the devil-may-care attitude which did it, that casual admission that even before the semi-final, with the shoot-out such an obvious possibility, it had not even crossed Gareth Southgate's mind to practice his penalties. When someone pointed out that the only previous penalty he had taken – and missed – had been Crystal Palace's place in the Premiership, the legend was complete.

From a player of such limited experience, the kick was a revelation. It was struck with astonishing force, and Andreas Köpke was rooted to his line as the ball whistled past his head at such speed that the German keeper would be admitted to hospital shortly afterwards with second-degree burns to his left ear. Thirty seconds later, Andreas Möller sent the kick into the second-tier hurgers of the stadium, and Southgate was being wheeled away down the tunnel on the shoulders of his team-mates.

No longer the gawky defender with a lispy grammar-school accent, Southgate was suddenly a national hero. Garra-manic hold held. That very night, printing presses around the country whirled into action. Within 48 hours, no adolescent bedroom wall was complete without its picture of Gareth.

Britain's media duly got behind its boys as Final day approached, even if the citizens of the Czech Republic proved a little more resistant to stereotyping than the Germans. By Saturday morning, the Mirror was getting desperate. "You Havel got to be joking," one headline read. "English & Czechs have a plaything as president!"

Yet how prescient it proved to be in the first half of the final. The Czech's football oozed intelligence and culture, and Patrik Berger's hat-trick barely reflected their superiority. The moment had arrived for one of Terry Venables' managerial masterstrokes.

"The gov'nor didn't say a word when we got to the dressing-room," Teddy Sheringham recalled later. "He just switched on the telly. Alan Hansen was laughing so much he couldn't even interrupt Jimmy Hill. After that, we couldn't wait to get stuck in."

Venables' ruse worked perfectly on all but Stuart Pearce, the only England player who was already fully motivated, and who suffered a severe emotional overload as a result. Fortunately, Pearce's subsequent attempt to impulse Karol Poborsky with a spare corner flag took place in the tunnel, and so right on cue, the referee's whistle was sounded to restrain the Forest full-back thus went unrecorded by photographers.

Knocked out by an elephantine dose from the tranquilliser drat which eventually brought him down, Pearce was oblivious to the drama unfolding on the pitch. Alan Shearer's injury ear-

ly in the second half seemed to have been compounded when the zig on Robbie Fowler's tracksuit top jammed, and the striker was sidelined while the St John's Ambulance tried to cut him free.

While they struggled, however, Southgate was pushed into emergency service up front, to immediate complaining effect. Confidence, boosted by the 35-year screamer which removed the keeper's front teeth on its way into the net, Southgate then lobbed him from five yards inside his own half less than five minutes later. When England won a free-kick 25 yards out, Wembley went wild as Southgate manhandled Gascoigne away from the ball before calmly curling his shot into the top corner for a 10-minute hat-trick.

Who can say how different things might have been if Fowler had not finally been released from his tracksuit? Southgate returned to a defensive role, and from then on, fighting spirit alone could not break down the gritty Czech defence. Once again, the shoot-out heckoned.

At 5-4 down, the palms of English fans were getting a little sweaty, until the slim but reliable form of Southgate stepped up to the Matthews line. Alan Smith, Charlton, Southgate, his name was surely inked in already on England's roll of honour. Throughout the length and breadth of Soho, young men with pony-tails devised witty taglines to launch a thousand endorsements, for everything from boots ("for hikers who want to

score like Gareth") to coodoms (er... ditto).

So what went through his mind at that crucial moment? "I thought of what my mum said to me after the Germany game," he explained later. "Gareth, she said, why the hell did you blast it? Think what a prat you'd have looked if it had gone over the bar. Did I waddle and Pearce teach you anything? Mark my words. Next time, try a hopeless, limp-ankled poke to the goalie's right. He won't be expecting that."

The rest, of course, is history...

WHAT IF

Zimbabwe had faced some serious opposition this winter?

It's just so frustrating," David Lloyd said, shortly after the letter dropped on to his doormat. "We're really not as bad as people think."

The communiqué was from the Zimbabwean cricket authorities. "We're very sorry," it read, "but tickets for the Test matches just aren't selling. People want the whiff of competition, the possibility that we might actually lose. So we've invited the Netherlands instead."

It is a testament to the enormous ability of English cricket's administrators that an alternative tour was organised at such short notice.

There were those among the press corps who complained that the Falkland Islands were not quite in cricket's top division, but that, of course, was nothing but sour grapes, a result of the unexpected cancellation of their winter in sub-equatorial Africa.

And so it was that Mike Atherton, who may fancy himself as clambering about the Herculean port on to the tarmac of Port Stanley airport. They could be forgiven for looking a little bemused, not least upon discovering that the very same runway would form the wicket for their opening match, against the Baggage Handlers XI.

In the circumstances, their 152-run defeat was hardly a disgrace. "It was the wrong kind of tarmac," Lloyd insisted. "We're really not as bad as people think." A similar excuse - "the wrong kind of stingle" - was advanced following the 10-wicket mauling at the calloused hands of the South Georgia Beachcombers Second XI. By the third day of the first Test, however, it was wearing a little thin. "They are," the coach declared, "the wrong kind of sheep."

It was fortunate indeed for the tourists that their visit coincided with the shearing season. Their opponents were forced to concede the match shortly before lunch on day four, but the spanking new pullovers each member of the England party received were by now of little consolation. Their next assignment was against the Oil Rig Salvage Crews' XI, on a rusting platform 10 miles offshore, and for Lloyd, a disturbing

moment of self-discovery was at hand.

England were trailing by 190 runs with a single wicket in hand as the rig started to disintegrate into the south Atlantic. "Oh God," the coach exclaimed as the icy water lapped around his neck. "We really are as bad as people think."

WHAT IF

Tim Henman had won Wimbledon?

Ironic, isn't it?" Tim Henman said last week. "At the time, it seemed like the greatest moment of my life. Now, six months on, I can see that winning Wimbledon was the worst thing that ever happened to me."

It seems like much more than six months since that blistering backhand cross-court pass left Richard Krajicek belly up, and Henman as the first British winner of the men's singles since Fred Perry. Little did he realise how that legacy would come to haunt him.

The Champions' Ball was the where it all started to go wrong. Henman and Steffi Graf made an attractive couple as the band struck up the first dance, and the women's champion was muttering more than sweet nothings into the young Briton's ear. "I was a bit taken aback," he recalls, "the music drowned her out and all I could hear at first was something about her

wanting to give me some serious attention. Then I realised she meant my accounts, and she was giving me her dad's phone number."

An attempt to emulate the success of the Fred Perry clothing range seemed a logical departure, and on the recommendation of his newly appointed financial advisor, official HM Bank shirts were manufactured in Milan. Bator, prior to import into Britain via Afghanistan, the Cayman Islands, Colombia and a yacht out of Miami.

To hindsight, the problem was obvious – the range was designed to reflect the man himself. Shy and understated at the very time when brashness was back on the catwalks of Paris and Milan, the Hennemman collection took up such stubborn residence on high-street shelves that several stores started charging rent. As Hennemman's bank balance suffered, so too did his form, and within a few short weeks, the only figure larger than his overdraft was his world ranking.

Then, just when it seemed that things could not get worse, HM Customs intercepted the latest consignment of "clothing", 150 miles off Penzance. "For obvious reasons, I simply can't comment," Hennemman said. "And anyway, visiting time is over."

WHAT IF

Emerson's wife had
liked Middlesbrough?

Please. Be serious

Broughton prepares to shine in Australia

Sailing

QUART ALEXANDER

year-long campaign to put the Royal Navy back at the forefront of international yacht racing begins in Australia tomorrow when a crew skippered by helicopter pilot Mick Broughton contests the Melbourne to Hobart Race. Broughton and his crew of seven, mainly from the Britannia Naval College at Dartmouth and including one female sublieutenant, have chartered a 36-foot warbrick-designed yacht for a series of races which has already seen them notch up wins in two shore series and a performance handicap series.

In the longer term they have their sights set on being part of the British three-hoat team to contest the Southern Cross series in Sydney next December and their manager, Tony Higham, is confident they will be backed by a major sponsorship package early in the New Year.

Broughton is now conscious of the focus he has attracted as the only British entry in the race. "It's a bit frightening as we are probably the youngest team in the race and now we have been installed as favourites," he said.

France's Christophe Lequin is a near 1,000-mile lead in the

He is also about 10 days ahead of the record schedule of 109 days set by Thonon Lamazou in 1989.

Britain's Pete Goss has moved into seventh place as Yves Parlier has arrived in Fremantle, Australia to replace a smashed rudder and so disqualify himself for receiving outside assistance. Goss has the only 50-foot boat in the race, all the rest are 60 feet, but as gear damage has taken its toll and reduced the fleet from 14 to 10 so far he is able to hope for a top spot place at the finish early in February at Les Sables d'Olonne.

All 14 BT Challenge yachts are still in the west with Mike Golding (Group 4) expected to complete the second, 6,600-mile leg from Rio de Janeiro to Wellington on Sunday. Forty miles astern is Andy Hordley (Save the Children) and a further 100 miles behind is Simon Walker (Toshiba). Conditions are becoming warmer as the fleet moves north. The dismantled concert continues to motor sail under jury rig to the Chatham Islands.

The eight yachts in the Clipper 96 race start their fifth leg from the Galapagos Islands to Hawaii today.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

SPORTING DIGEST

Football

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

American football					
NFL: Super Bowl 24 Detroit, 24					
AMERICAN FOOTBALL CONFERENCE					
EASTERN DIVISION					
	W	L	T	P	PP
Y-New England	11	5	0	418	33
X-Buffalo	10	6	0	319	26
Ind-Pittsburgh	9	7	0	319	26
Miami	8	8	0	339	32
NY Jets	1	15	0	279	45
CENTRAL DIVISION					
Y-Pittsburgh	10	6	0	344	26
X-Jacksonville	9	7	0	325	33
Cleveland	8	8	0	325	33
Houston	8	8	0	345	31
Baltimore	5	12	0	371	44
WESTERN DIVISION					
Y-Cincinnati	13	3	0	391	27
X-Denver	9	7	0	383	33
San Diego	8	8	0	331	37
Oakland	7	9	0	340	28
Seattle	7	9	0	382	37
NATIONAL FOOTBALL CONFERENCE					
EASTERN DIVISION					
Y-Dallas	10	6	0	286	25
X-Tennessee	10	6	0	300	24
Washington	9	7	0	384	31
Atlanta	8	8	0	300	39
NY Giants	5	10	0	242	29
CENTRAL DIVISION					
X-Green Bay	13	3	0	456	21
X-Minnesota	8	8	0	326	35
Chicago	7	9	0	326	35
Tampa Bay	5	10	0	221	26
Detroit	5	11	0	242	29
WESTERN DIVISION					
Y-Corvallis	12	4	0	367	21
X-San Francisco	12	4	0	398	25
St Louis	8	8	0	303	33
Atlanta	5	13	0	309	48
New Orleans	3	13	0	229	35
X - Divided playoff berth Z - Divided conference tie					

Baseball

NBA: New York 82 Atlanta 76; Orlando 83 Cleveland 84; Minnesota 102 Utah 56; Boston 101 New Jersey 90; Los Angeles 95 Milwaukee 81; San Antonio 79 Miami 90; Phoenix 108 Denver 112 (OT); Portland 84 Washington 80; Sacramento 104 Los Angeles 88.

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Atlanta	24	8	200	08
Orlando	24	8	180	08
New York	20	7	141	14
New Jersey	19	7	131	14
New York	18	7	121	14
Philadelphia	17	6	116	14
Atlanta	10	3	436	8
Philadelphia	7	18	208	28
Washington	7	18	208	28
Boston	5	18	208	28

CENTRAL DIVISION

Atlanta	24	3	889	9
Orlando	15	5	800	3
Cleveland	11	8	650	13
Atlanta	10	8	650	13
Charlotte	15	11	577	8
Atlanta	15	11	577	8
Philadelphia	10	12	514	13
Washington	10	12	514	13
Toronto	9	18	333	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Los Angeles	21	6	778	9
Utah	20	6	719	12
Portland	19	6	719	12
Denver	9	16	360	11
Dallas	9	19	296	13
San Antonio	9	19	296	13
Vancouver	6	22	214	25

PACIFIC DIVISION

Seattle	24	9	890	9
Portland	24	9	870	9
Portland	14	10	500	15
Sacramento	11	17	363	8
San Diego	9	18	300	9
LA Clippers	10	19	357	8
Phoenix	8	18	308	20

Football

More than half of the seats on the new Portland League Board of Directors will be contested, it has been revealed. The surety of his place for next year for the First Division clubs were agreed last week. It was likely that there would be less agreement among the other two divisions. Only Dave Chairman John Spivack's name has been put forward for the First Division. Spivack's Grand Sheepsheads, Ian Stod of Osham and Royal Palace chair Ron Noodles. Sheepsheads is understood to be the First Division club to secure transfer for the championship of the new board, which takes over from the present so-man body next month. Referee papers are being sent out

[illegible]

TODAY'S NUMBER

543

The Coventry City club appearance record, which goalkeeper Steve Ogrizovic is due to break in the home game against Middlesbrough on Saturday. The present record was set 26 years ago by George Curtis.

sport

There is no mystery behind Wimbledon's ability to match the Premiership's big names. As he prepared to celebrate his 50th birthday today, their manager told **Glenn Moore** that preparation, hard work and organisation are his only secrets

Kinnear's recipe for success

Poor Joe Kinnear. Today he suffers the big Five-O for the second time in four days. No, that is not a prediction for Wimbledon's match against West Ham today (having seen West Ham on Saturday, it is impossible to imagine them emulating Aston Villa's Sunday feat), but recognition of the Wimbledon manager's 50th birthday today.

When we met last week, to toast the occasion with a pre-birthday drink, Kinnear was quick to put the landmark into perspective. "I'm pleased, thankful, to get there and be in good health. A lot of people don't. I lost my sister when she was 32. She died of cancer at a very young age. I lost a friend in Cyril Knowles who died very young." He also lost his natural father, and stepfather, when he was barely in his teens.

"You do take stock," Kinnear said. "Everyone wants to get their half-century done, but pads on, 50 not out. But it is on you before you know it. Age seems to pass you by at times, you are working so hard. Sometimes you think 'I could probably have enjoyed myself more when I was younger', but you don't know it at the time."

"I look back at my first cup final. I was 20 years of age, playing for Spurs against Chelsea in the 1967 FA Cup final. It's just a vague memory. I can more or less remember walking out of the tunnel and looking round at 100,000 people. Then I was just concentrating on the game. I remember walking up for my medal, then the euphoria after the match, jogging round with the trophy, then it's gone. The big blow was missing the next day - the trip round on the open-top bus - as I had gone off to play for Ireland."

"I look back and I've had 35 years in the game, amazing really. At 15 years of age I went to Tottenham's youth team. I had 12 years there as a professional, and two more at Brighton. Then an achilles injury finished me. There's been a lot of good changes, I've seen a lot of good things and bad things."

Things are looking good for Kinnear at the moment. Wimbledon are high in the Premiership and Kinnear is in demand. "A big club [Blackburn or Manchester City] came in for me two weeks ago. It would have made me financially secure. I turned it down. I have a great relationship with Sam [Hamman]. We have worked hard to be where we are. I have always thought we were a good enough team to win something. I believe in my players, we have beaten the best."

"It's hard, I don't have the strength in depth. Without the Sky money Deano Holdsworth would have gone well before now. I've been able to add to the squad instead. But if I lose Gyvend Leonhardsen I don't have an experienced player to replace him. Clubs like Newcastle and Manchester United can go out and buy someone. But if we stay injury-free we have a realistic chance of winning something."

It has been worse. "You should have seen what Doncaster was like when I was manager there. It was like a pub side - the chairman was even a publican. The biggest problem was finding the wages. He would come in and say: 'I can't pay you this week because we are playing away from home - we've got no gate money.'"



Wimbledon's players give Joe Kinnear a 50th birthday surprise yesterday by turning up at training with a cake, presented by Vinnie Jones, and specially printed T-shirts

Photographs: Herbie Knott

"The players would say: 'The cheque's ain't gone in, gaffer. When are we going to get paid?' I'd say: 'We're lucky. We've got a home game Saturday - you'll be paid Sunday.'"

"At the end of the season the chairman said to me: 'You've done a magnificent job keeping us up. I'd like to extend your contract.' I said: 'I've got a year to go. Let's talk about it next season.'"

"When I came back from holiday

"If we can stay injury-free we have a realistic chance of winning something."

"The rest is mystery. How do Wimbledon do it? Preparation, organisation and hard work would appear to be the key. Over a small cinder (he was driving), Kinnear let slip a few illustrations of why he spends hours watching matches and making notes."

"I was so pleased the other week. We went to Sunderland and I said to them we have to worry about Ball. They said 'Kevin Ball?' I said 'Yes. To me he epitomises Sunderland. Work rate, blood and thunder, wants another year on his face. He's very dangerous arriving in the box - if the right cross comes in he's not afraid to throw his head in.' I said to Vinne [Jones], you pick him up, let Robbie [Earle] and Leo [Leonhardsen] bomb on. He and Vinne had a right ding-dong throughout the

game, but it worked. "I saw Chelsea against them the following week. Sunderland get it down the left wing and cross it - and who's diving in with his head, a clear header unmarked? Kevin Ball. Bang. Goal. Terry Burton [Wimbledon coach] comes in the following day and says to me: 'See that goal, he had acres of room.'"

"Before we played Sheffield Wednesday I said this goalkeeper [Kevin Pressman] mucks about with



it - close him down quick. Efan [Ekoku] did, took the ball off him and put it in the net. Great start."

"A lot of goalkeepers start attacks. Peter Schmeichel is one so, when he catches it, one of our forwards goes in and stands on him, blocks him. He starts moaning to the ref, the crowd start booing, but by then we're back on our tails and have picked everybody up. He ends up kicking it, it's a 50-50 knock-down - and we work hard on that."

"You want to cut off the supply first. Against Blackburn I said to the full backs: 'If you do nothing else but press up on Gallacher and Wilcox, mark them tight and not allow them a cross,

you have done a wonderful job for us. Because that will cut all the service to Sutton, who's by himself." "So, Wilcox gets the ball, Cunningham gets close. Wilcox gives it back to Le Saun. The midfield get close to their midfield, he's no option but to whack it to Sutton. One centre-half will challenge him, the other will drop off and pick it up. Sutton's standing there with his arms out all frustrated and we've got the ball. We did a professional job

on them. They had a lot of ball but never hurt us."

The same applied to Villa in the Coca-Cola Cup, but, at Villa Park on Sunday, Cunningham made the sort of mistake that defeats every coach's planning. When the centre pair followed up with another error Wimbledon were drawn out of defence and well beaten. The long unbeaten run was over.

However, the prospects remain

"When Alex Ferguson decides to retire Manchester United can give me a call"

good. Most of the squad are signed until the next century, crowds have risen - above Southampton and landlords Crystal Palace - and the club remains solvent. "We've never been in the red, Sam's very proud of that." The only irritant is Merton Council's failure to support a move back to the borough.

Kinnear has had more helpful political rulers - like the Prince of Nepal, where Kinnear coached the

national side. He lent Kinnear his private plane and a pilot to fly along the Annapurna Mountains. "It's a prop job," Kinnear recalled. "We are flying on our side along the mountains about 20 feet from Everest. It's a real change of pants job. I look at Bonnie [his wife] and her knuckles are white. Some experience."

Kinnear made the most of his travels. He went elephant trekking while coaching in India, rode canals in Dubai and survived a riot in Malaysia. "The hicks were landing around the dug-out then they started on the players. We headed for the dressing room."

Eventually, he came back with Dave Mackay to Doncaster. Now, after five years at Wimbledon, he is the second longest serving manager in the Premiership. "My ambition is to be here longer than Alex [Ferguson]," he laughs. "When he decides to retire they can give me a call."

One can imagine him leaving for Old Trafford, but not for many other jobs. He has rejected the lure of Ireland and a fat bank balance. Wimbledon has a place in his heart that could be matched only by Tottenham. In the meantime he is looking through a crowded holiday programme to the Coca-Cola Cup quarter-final at Bolton on 8 January. "That's the important one." Wimbledon, Europe, and silverware beckon.

Barnsley aim to bridge the ever-growing gap

Nationwide League
PHIL SHAW

Seventeen years ago today the Sheffield derby attracted nearly 50,000 spectators to Hillsborough, a record for the former Third Division. How the Football League could use a comparable clamour at the turnstiles today.

More than two-thirds of its 72 clubs are showing a drop in support this season, with the average for the current Third (and Fourth) Division down by almost 15 per cent. Set against a continuing upward trend in the Premiership, where crowds have increased by three per cent, the figures provide unhappy vindication for those who predicted a widening gulf between the haves and have nots.

The self-styled elite might not be too enamoured by the prospect of Barnsley, with their 9,000 average, lowering the tone at the top level à la Wimbledon. Danny Wilson's side enter the second half of their season a point ahead of Bolton with a game in hand. Despite their reputation as Stoke's bogey team, a visit to the Victoria Ground will certainly test their mettle.

Stoke, well placed to push for a play-off place again, will be boosted by the news that Mark Stein is to stay on loan from Chelsea for a second month. An England international will also pledge himself to them be-

fore kick-off, although Dominic Cork, who likes to join Mike Atherton's men in New Zealand early next year, is to be paraded as the latest recruit to the Pottery's supporters' club rather than beefing up the midfield.

The First Division's first 30,000 attendance of the season is expected at Maine Road, where Manchester City will have their work cut out to complete a double over Port Vale. City, who continue to be linked with the former Nottingham Forest manager Frank Clark, have won only twice in the last nine matches. Franny Lee is likely to monitor events from Barbados; a case, perhaps, of biding while home years.

Vale are proving a formidable counter-attacking side away from home, reflecting great credit on John Rudge's resourceful stewardship in a 13-year reign during which City have gone through nine full-time managers (not to mention "temps" like Phil Neal). Rudge may, however, be without his top scorer, lifelong City supporter Tony Naylor, who has a hamstring injury.

Another team faring better on their travels are Wolves. Remarkably, they have gained twice as many points away from Molineux from one less game. That is hardly deterring the public from parting with their money. Three years ago next Saturday they began a run of 70 successive home games of 20,000 or more. Their opponents that day, Ox-

ford, are back in town this afternoon. With both clubs in the play-off zone, Wolves anticipate a turn-out in excess of 27,000 for the first time since the match against Leicester in February.

Bradford City, whose 85 per cent rise in crowds is easily the highest in Britain, should be close to capacity for the bottom-versus-top meeting with Sheffield United. Bolton, down to second spot after eight games without a win, go to 24th-placed Grimsby in urgent need of points to go with the plaudits they are attracting.

Although no club in the Second Division boasts a five-figure average, attendances are nearly nine per cent up. The top two, Brentford and Luton, are both away today, giving Bury a chance to close the gap. A win over Crewe would keep alive the bizarre possibility of a club with fewer than 5,000 regular patrons swapping places with neighbouring Manchester City.

Fulham, Third Division leaders both at the gate and on the pitch, will expect to maintain their progress at Exeter's expense. Peter Shilton, who helped Leyton Orient draw nearly 8,000 last Sunday, may actually suffer a slight fall-off for Northampton's visit as their legendary goalkeeper plays League match No 1,001. While that figure is normally associated with spotless carpets, Shilton will settle for a clean sheet, his 334th.

TODAY'S MAJOR FOOTBALL FIXTURES AND POOLS CHECK

3.0 leagues sorted			
FA Cup	Premier	1st Div	2nd Div
1. Arsenal v Liverpool	1. Aston Villa v Chelsea	1. Blackpool v Barnsley	1. Blackpool v Barnsley
2. Wimbledon v Manchester City	2. Blackburn v Newcastle	2. Reading v West Bromwich	2. Reading v West Bromwich
3. Tottenham v Manchester United	3. Leeds v Coventry	3. Southampton v Charlton	3. Southampton v Charlton
4. Manchester City v Tottenham	4. Liverpool v Leicester	4. Stoke v Barnsley	4. Stoke v Barnsley
5. Manchester United v Tottenham	5. Middlesbrough v Everton	5. Tranmere v Huddersfield	5. Tranmere v Huddersfield
6. Tottenham v Manchester United	6. Nottm Forest v Man Utd	6. Wolves v Oxford Utd	6. Wolves v Oxford Utd
7. Tottenham v Manchester United	7. Sunderland v Derby	7. Sheffield Wed v Arsenal	7. Sheffield Wed v Arsenal
8. Tottenham v Manchester United	8. Tottenham v Southampton	8. Tottenham v Southampton	8. Tottenham v Southampton
9. Tottenham v Manchester United	9. Wimbledon v West Ham	9. Wimbledon v West Ham	9. Wimbledon v West Ham
10. Tottenham v Manchester United	10. Tottenham v Southampton	10. Tottenham v Southampton	10. Tottenham v Southampton
11. Tottenham v Manchester United	11. Tottenham v Southampton	11. Tottenham v Southampton	11. Tottenham v Southampton
12. Tottenham v Manchester United	12. Tottenham v Southampton	12. Tottenham v Southampton	12. Tottenham v Southampton
13. Tottenham v Manchester United	13. Tottenham v Southampton	13. Tottenham v Southampton	13. Tottenham v Southampton
14. Tottenham v Manchester United	14. Tottenham v Southampton	14. Tottenham v Southampton	14. Tottenham v Southampton
15. Tottenham v Manchester United	15. Tottenham v Southampton	15. Tottenham v Southampton	15. Tottenham v Southampton

TEAM SHEET			
Aston Villa v Chelsea	Blackburn v Newcastle	Liverpool v Leicester	Tottenham v Southampton
Goalkeepers: 1. Simon M. 2. David. 3. Peter. 4. John. 5. Paul. 6. Mark. 7. Steve. 8. Alan. 9. Gary. 10. Ian. 11. David. 12. Paul. 13. Mark. 14. Steve. 15. Alan. 16. Gary. 17. Ian. 18. David. 19. Paul. 20. Mark. 21. Steve. 22. Alan. 23. Gary. 24. Ian. 25. David. 26. Paul. 27. Mark. 28. Steve. 29. Alan. 30. Gary. 31. Ian. 32. David. 33. Paul. 34. Mark. 35. Steve. 36. Alan. 37. Gary. 38. Ian. 39. David. 40. Paul. 41. Mark. 42. Steve. 43. Alan. 44. Gary. 45. Ian. 46. David. 47. Paul. 48. Mark. 49. Steve. 50. Alan. 51. Gary. 52. Ian. 53. David. 54. Paul. 55. Mark. 56. Steve. 57. Alan. 58. Gary. 59. Ian. 60. David. 61. Paul. 62. Mark. 63. Steve. 64. Alan. 65. Gary. 66. Ian. 67. David. 68. Paul. 69. Mark. 70. Steve. 71. Alan. 72. Gary. 73. Ian. 74. David. 75. Paul. 76. Mark. 77. Steve. 78. Alan. 79. Gary. 80. Ian. 81. David. 82. Paul. 83. Mark. 84. Steve. 85. Alan. 86. Gary. 87. Ian. 88. David. 89. Paul. 90. Mark. 91. Steve. 92. Alan. 93. Gary. 94. Ian. 95. David. 96. Paul. 97. Mark. 98. Steve. 99. Alan. 100. Gary.	Goalkeepers: 1. Simon M. 2. David. 3. Peter. 4. John. 5. Paul. 6. Mark. 7. Steve. 8. Alan. 9. Gary. 10. Ian. 11. David. 12. Paul. 13. Mark. 14. Steve. 15. Alan. 16. Gary. 17. Ian. 18. David. 19. Paul. 20. Mark. 21. Steve. 22. Alan. 23. Gary. 24. Ian. 25. David. 26. Paul. 27. Mark. 28. Steve. 29. Alan. 30. Gary. 31. Ian. 32. David. 33. Paul. 34. Mark. 35. Steve. 36. Alan. 37. Gary. 38. Ian. 39. David. 40. Paul. 41. Mark. 42. Steve. 43. Alan. 44. Gary. 45. Ian. 46. David. 47. Paul. 48. Mark. 49. Steve. 50. Alan. 51. Gary. 52. Ian. 53. David. 54. Paul. 55. Mark. 56. Steve. 57. Alan. 58. Gary. 59. Ian. 60. David. 61. Paul. 62. Mark. 63. Steve. 64. Alan. 65. Gary. 66. Ian. 67. David. 68. Paul. 69. Mark. 70. Steve. 71. Alan. 72. Gary. 73. Ian. 74. David. 75. Paul. 76. Mark. 77. Steve. 78. Alan. 79. Gary. 80. Ian. 81. David. 82. Paul. 83. Mark. 84. Steve. 85. Alan. 86. Gary. 87. Ian. 88. David. 89. Paul. 90. Mark. 91. Steve. 92. Alan. 93. Gary. 94. Ian. 95. David. 96. Paul. 97. Mark. 98. Steve. 99. Alan. 100. Gary.	Goalkeepers: 1. Simon M. 2. David. 3. Peter. 4. John. 5. Paul. 6. Mark. 7. Steve. 8. Alan. 9. Gary. 10. Ian. 11. David. 12. Paul. 13. Mark. 14. Steve. 15. Alan. 16. Gary. 17. Ian. 18. David. 19. Paul. 20. Mark. 21. Steve. 22. Alan. 23. Gary. 24. Ian. 25. David. 26. Paul. 27. Mark. 28. Steve. 29. Alan. 30. Gary. 31. Ian. 32. David. 33. Paul. 34. Mark. 35. Steve. 36. Alan. 37. Gary. 38. Ian. 39. David. 40. Paul. 41. Mark. 42. Steve. 43. Alan. 44. Gary. 45. Ian. 46. David. 47. Paul. 48. Mark. 49. Steve. 50. Alan. 51. Gary. 52. Ian. 53. David. 54. Paul. 55. Mark. 56. Steve. 57. Alan. 58. Gary. 59. Ian. 60. David. 61. Paul. 62. Mark. 63. Steve. 64. Alan. 65. Gary. 66. Ian. 67. David. 68. Paul. 69. Mark. 70. Steve. 71. Alan. 72. Gary. 73. Ian. 74. David. 75. Paul. 76. Mark. 77. Steve. 78. Alan. 79. Gary. 80. Ian. 81. David. 82. Paul. 83. Mark. 84. Steve. 85. Alan. 86. Gary. 87. Ian. 88. David. 89. Paul. 90. Mark. 91. Steve. 92. Alan. 93. Gary. 94. Ian. 95. David. 96. Paul. 97. Mark. 98. Steve. 99. Alan. 100. Gary.	Goalkeepers: 1. Simon M. 2. David. 3. Peter. 4. John. 5. Paul. 6. Mark. 7. Steve. 8. Alan. 9. Gary. 10. Ian. 11. David. 12. Paul. 13. Mark. 14. Steve. 15. Alan. 16. Gary. 17. Ian. 18. David. 19. Paul. 20. Mark. 21. Steve. 22. Alan. 23. Gary. 24. Ian. 25. David. 26. Paul. 27. Mark. 28. Steve. 29. Alan. 30. Gary. 31. Ian. 32. David. 33. Paul. 34. Mark. 35. Steve. 36. Alan. 37. Gary. 38. Ian. 39. David. 40. Paul. 41. Mark. 42. Steve. 43. Alan. 44. Gary. 45. Ian. 46. David. 47. Paul. 48. Mark. 49. Steve. 50. Alan. 51. Gary. 52. Ian. 53. David. 54. Paul. 55. Mark. 56. Steve. 57. Alan. 58. Gary. 59. Ian. 60. David. 61. Paul. 62. Mark. 63. Steve. 64. Alan. 65. Gary. 66. Ian. 67. David. 68. Paul. 69. Mark. 70. Steve. 71. Alan. 72. Gary. 73. Ian. 74. David. 75. Paul. 76. Mark. 77. Steve. 78. Alan. 79. Gary. 80. Ian. 81. David. 82. Paul. 83. Mark. 84. Steve. 85. Alan. 86. Gary. 87. Ian. 88. David. 89. Paul. 90. Mark. 91. Steve. 92. Alan. 93. Gary. 94. Ian. 95. David. 96. Paul. 97. Mark. 98. Steve. 99. Alan. 100. Gary.

Pick of the Day

Pavarotti Returns to Llangollen
6.30pm C4

Patently very moved, Luciano Pavarotti (right), and his father – a surprisingly small man – returned this summer to the pretty Welsh town of Llangollen for the big man, since Llangollen was where Pavarotti first became inspired to sing in 1955, listening to the great Italian baritone, Tito Gobbi. His programme of songs includes works by Puccini, Verdi and Handel.



Film of the Day

Vanya on 42nd Street
3.10pm C4

Superbly complex meditation on the nature of theatre – and the final film by Louis Malle (left). A group of actors come to a crumbling Manhattan theatre in their street clothes to rehearse Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* – only for the rehearsal to become the play – and for the play, in the time-honoured manner of these things – to intertwine with their lives. A fantastic transposition of play into film, with Wallace Shawn and Julianne Moore excellent in the lead roles.

Boxing Day television and radio

BBC 1

- 6.00 Children's BBC: Joe 90, 6.25 Santa and the Tooth Fairies, 6.50 Noddy, 7.20 Playdays, 7.40 Christopher the Christmas Tree, 8.00 Christmas Time! 8.30 Little Mouse on the Prairie, 8.55 Round the Twist, 9.20 A Flintstones Christmas Carol.
- 10.10 **10.10** An American Tail: Fievel Goes West (Phil Nicks, Simon Wells 1991 US). The further adventures of the pioneering cartoon mice – here venturing into the Wild West (S) (468133).
- 11.20 Lyddie. Period children's drama from Canada about a young girl (S) (8639959).
- 12.50 News and Weather (3021240).
- 12.58 Regional News and Weather (3335088).
- 1.00 Neighbours (S) (5875706).
- 1.20 Just William (R) (3789053).
- 1.50 **1.50** News. Say Never Again (Orin Kershner 1983 US). Sean Connery returns after a 12-year hiatus in what is an unacknowledged remake of the 1965 adventure *Thunderball* (S) (8419393).
- 4.00 The Wrong Trousers. Christmas won't no longer be Christmas without Wallace and Gromit, and here they are – in Nick Park's Oscar-winning animated feature (R) (3336).
- 4.30 The World of Peter Rabbit and Friends. New series of animated Beatrix Potter animations, starting with 'The Tale of Two Bad Mice' and 'Johnny Town-Mouse' (S) (7121510).
- 4.55 Final Score. With Ray Stubbs (S) (8392336).
- 5.15 News and Weather (5783997).
- 5.25 Regional News (6620510).
- 5.30 Tom and Jerry (R) (854065).
- 5.35 Neighbours (S) (147626).
- 6.00 **6.00** Free Willy (Simon Wincer 1993 US). Huge surprise hit about a troubled youngster Jason James Richter who befriends a captive killer whale at a nearby marine park (S) (2415935).
- 7.45 Winter on One (757268).
- 8.20 **8.20** 2001: A Space Odyssey (S) (828607).
- 9.00 One Foot in the Grave. Victor sees a ghost in the seasonal edition of the grumpy crumbly sitcom. Rula Lenska is the guest star (S) (9775).
- 10.00 News and Weather (366711).
- 10.15 **10.15** Somersby (Jon Amiel 1993 US). Better-than-expected remake of the French movie, *The Return of Martin Guerre*, updates the story to the American Civil War. Richard Gere is cast as the Confederate soldier who returns home after six years at war, and whose wife (Jodie Foster) can't quite accept that he is the same man who went away. Bill Pullman co-stars (S) (155572).
- 12.05 **12.05** The Christmas Carol (S) (15598201). Homecoming college boy Dustin Hoffman is seduced by his parents' neighbour, Anne Bancroft in Nichols's classic generation gap sex comedy. Katherine Ross co-stars (S) (834350).
- 1.45 Clive Anderson All Talk. Danny DeVito and Angus Deayton feature (R) (S) (8802060).
- 2.20 Weather (1747337). To 2.25am.

BBC 2

- 6.55 **6.55** Breakfast for Two (Alfred Santell 1997 US). Screwball comedy starring Barbara Stanwyck as a young heiress who uses her womanly wiles to turn a no-nonsense businessman (S) (791777).
- 8.00 Barbara Stanwyck: Fire and Desire. Selly Field hosts this tribute (R) (S) (3226336).
- 8.50 **8.50** Cattle Queen of Montana (Alan Dwan 1954 US). Pretty scenery, dud script as pioneer Barbara Stanwyck defends her cattle against the injurious. Ronald Reagan co-stars (S) (215591).
- 10.15 **10.15** Little Dorrit. Nobody's Fault (Christine Edvard 1987 UK). Mammoth, six-hour labour of love (from the novel by Charles Dickens) is showing – as in the cinema – in two parts (the second three hours shows tomorrow at 9.45am). The subject is money – largely the lack of it – and the superb cast includes Derek Jacobi, Alec Guinness, Cyril Cusack, Max Wall, Joanne Whalley-Kilmer, and Alan Bennett as a bishop (S) (8216022).
- 1.05 **1.05** Chatterbox. Rossini's opera, with Italian mezzo-soprano Cecilia Bartoli and the Houston Symphony Orchestra (S) (36775442).
- 3.45 **3.45** Choir of the Year. The youth semi-final (5627113).
- 4.25 **4.25** The Italian Job (Peter Collinson 1969 UK). Some truly bizarre casting (Benny Hill and Noel Coward in the same movie) in the stunt-packed heist flick with the famous mini-chase sequence. Michael Caine stars (S) (9026807).
- 6.00 Euro 96: When Football Came Home (25862).
- 7.00 **7.00** Jeremy Clarkson's Motorworld UK (3881).
- 7.30 **7.30** Me: A Tribute to Mohamed Amin. Michael Buerk profiles the cameraman, who died aboard a hijacked Ethiopian Airlines jet (S) (591).
- 8.00 **8.00** An Audience with Charles Dickens. Simon Callow narrates the court-scene from Dickens's *Pickwick Papers* (S) (9201).
- 8.30 **8.30** Swan Lake. Matthew Bourne and Adventures in Motion Pictures' beautiful and very funny ('You laugh and laugh all the way through – and then, at the end, you cry') says our Louise Liversidge, rethinking of Tchaikovsky's ballet. It hit the headlines thanks to the decision to have men dance the famous corps de ballet of swans (swans as an image of strength instead of willowy grace) and obvious comparisons of the stilted Prince with our own Prince Charles (S) (82775).
- 10.30 **10.30** Steptoe and Son Christmas Special (R) (211355).
- 11.15 **11.15** Gags. Plasticine animated pre-history (93240).
- 11.25 **11.25** Fine Cut. Crumb. Terry Zwigoff's fine, award-winning portrait of counter-culture cartoonist Robert Crumb, the genius who gave us *Fritz the Cat*, *Jack*, *John LP* and all the other 'Wop or Truism' T-shirt illustrations (S) (15598201).
- 1.30 **1.30** The Seventh Victim (Mark Robson 1943 US). Genuinely creepy thriller from producer Val Lewton and starring Kim Hunter as a less trying to save her sisters from the clutches of a group of devil-worshippers in New York City (S) (681447).
- 2.35 **2.35** Weather (8617008). To 2.40am.

ITV/London

- 6.00 **6.00** GMTV: 6.00 Bananas in Pyjamas, 6.20 Barney and Friends, 6.50 Bug Alert 7.30 News, Weather and Sport, 8.05 GMTV Review (7425881).
- 9.25 **9.25** Cannonball Run II (Hal Needham 1983 US). Car races and star cameos in this silly sequel. With Burt Reynolds, Shirley MacLaine, Dom DeLuise, Jackie Chan, Dean Cain, Sammy Davis Jr, and Frank Sinatra (S) (17755341).
- 11.20 **11.20** Survival Special (4812171).
- 12.20 **12.20** Cartoon Time (5963626).
- 12.35 **12.35** News, Weather (91354794).
- 12.50 **12.50** Fanny Farm (George Roy Hill 1968 US). New York sports journalist, Chevy Chase, decides on a move to the country (S) (8450220).
- 2.45 **2.45** The Willows in Winter. Follow-up to last year's acclaimed adaptation of *The Wind in the Willows*. Based on the book by Kenneth Grahame – itself a sequel to Kenneth Grahame's original classic novel – and voiced by Rik Mayall, Alan Bennett, Michael Palin and Michael Gambon (S) (7869256).
- 4.10 **4.10** Home and Away Special (R) (S) (6435862).
- 4.40 **4.40** News, Weather (4969713).
- 4.50 **4.50** The Secret Garden (Agnieszka Holland 1994 UK). Lovely looking and imaginative re-telling of Frances Hodgson Burnett's children's classic. Kate Maberly plays the young girl packed off to stay with her sickly cousin in Yorkshire – who discovers a secret walled garden. Maggie Smith shines as the housekeeper (S) (8490759).
- 6.45 **6.45** The Russ Abbot Show Christmas Special (614510).
- 7.30 **7.30** Michael Barrymore's Strike It Rich (S) (7).
- 8.00 **8.00** The Bill. A burglar's funeral is disrupted when the hearse containing his coffin is stolen (S) (6355).
- 8.30 **8.30** Emmerdale (S) (5862).
- 9.00 **9.00** Peter Benchley's The Beast. 1/2. When sailors and divers begin to disappear mysteriously, a local fishing-boat captain suspects that a deadly giant squid is to blame... (7201).
- 10.30 **10.30** News, Weather (403959).
- 10.40 **10.40** The Lee Evans Show. Norman Wisdom-style slapstick. With a guest appearance by legendary singer, Tony Bennett (411268).
- 11.40 **11.40** The Howard Stern Show. A visitor from a parallel universe lands on Earth where she is immediately forced to go on the run from both the FBI and the villainous agents following her through time (251539).
- 1.15 **1.15** Instant Replay 1996 Review of the pop musical year (S) (932756).
- 2.20 **2.20** The Live (John Carpenter 1989 US). A drifter arrives in Los Angeles and is horrified to discover the city's population dominated by mind-controlling aliens (S) (97195).
- 4.00 **4.00** Sound Bites (S) (8706742).
- 4.15 **4.15** The Pickwick Papers (Warwick Gilbert 1985 US). Animated version of (S) (930447). To 5.30am.

Channel 4

- 6.50 **6.50** Pro Stars (R) (8519171).
- 7.15 **7.15** The Greatest Tunes on Earth (7022201).
- 7.40 **7.40** The Baby-Sitters Club (R) (8507997).
- 8.15 **8.15** Little Shop (R) (7548773).
- 8.40 **8.40** Where on Earth is Carmen San Diego? (9017572).
- 9.00 **9.00** The Big Breakfast (23688).
- 10.00 **10.00** Hangin' with Mr. Cooper (R) (S) (80292).
- 10.30 **10.30** Crystal Maze (R) (S) (22978).
- 11.30 **11.30** Back to the Future (R) (S) (6503187).
- 11.55 **11.55** The Pink Panther (S) (9734423).
- 12.25 **12.25** God in the House. An outdoor Christian rave in Littlehampton (S) (5843012).
- 12.55 **12.55** Racing from Kempton. The 1.10, 1.40, 2.15 and 2.45 races (S) (9492797).
- 3.10 **3.10** Vanya on 42nd Street (Louis Malle 1994 US). See of the Day, above (44595442).
- 5.20 **5.20** News Summary and Weather (6621249).
- 5.25 **5.25** Abel's Island (R) (1304423).
- 6.00 **6.00** Holykiss (S) (423).
- 6.30 **6.30** Pavarotti Returns to Llangollen. See Pick of the Day, above (S) (84201).
- 8.00 **8.00** Stanley Baxter in Real Terms. The Scottish comic returns with a compendium of classic sketches from his TV specials, as well as previously unseen material (S) (2249).
- 9.00 **9.00** The Conquest of Paradise (Ridley Scott 1992 US). Of the two major movies made to mark the quincentenary of Christopher Columbus's discovery of the Americas, Ridley Scott's was by far the darker and more ambitious – putting the journey within the context of Old World colonialism rather than straightforward school textbook heroics. Covering the 20 years prior to his world-shattering journey, Gérard Philipe proves a shrewd choice as Columbus, while Sigourney Weaver plays his patroness, Queen Isabel of Spain. Armand Assante supports (S) (52954442).
- 11.50 **11.50** The Raggedy Ann and Andy Show (1980 US). A 30-man camera team shot over one million feet of film to capture Bette Midler packing in a decade's worth of material on stage in Pasadena. Glitzy-looking and raucous (709591).
- 1.30 **1.30** Fantastic Planet (René Laloux 1974 Fr/Cz). Remarkable, highly original animated sci-fi that won a special prize at the Cannes Film Festival. It's set in a futuristic planet inhabited by a mechanised race called the Ooags, which keeps human beings as pets – until the captives decide the time has come to fight back (S) (922617).
- 2.50 **2.50** The Raggedy Ann and Andy Show (1980 US). A Raggedy Ann and Andy show is half-magic – which, alas, doesn't really summarise Hoskins's cutting as director, co-writer and star. It's mildly interesting, nonetheless, with Hoskins playing the leader of a gypsy-like band of refugees in a war-ravaged, non-specific country at the turn of the century. The raggedy in question is shell-shocked army deserter played by Dexter Fletcher (S) (539911). To 4.45am.

ITV/Regions

- ANGlia**
As London except: 1.15am Film: Curiosity Kills (539114). 2.50am Not Fade Away (6259973). 3.50-5.25am Film: First Love (104379).
- CHAMPAIGN NORTH EAST/WORSHIRE**
As London except: 1.15am Film: Sidecut (248824). 3.10am Not Fade Away (3860911). 4.10am The Elf Who Saved Christmas (47097756). 4.40-5.55am Film: Great Expectations (398824).
- ITV**
As London except: 1.15am Film: Curiosity Kills (539114). 2.50am Not Fade Away (6259973). 3.50-5.25am Film: First Love (104379).
- MERIDIAN**
As London except: 1.15am Film: Curiosity Kills (539114). 2.50am Not Fade Away (6259973). 3.50-5.25am Film: First Love (104379).
- WESTCOUNTRY**
As London except: 1.15am Film: Curiosity Kills (539114). 2.50am Not Fade Away (6259973). 3.50-5.25am Film: First Love (104379).
- CENTRAL**
As London
- S4C**
As C4 except: 10.00am Bless This House (80292). 10.30 Film: The Battle of the Sexes (2399010). 12.05pm The Pink Panther (2395152). 12.20 Sit Me Down (3960862). 12.30 Citizen 2000 (729468). 4.30-5.00pm The 1960s (S) (87125). 6.00 News (987125). 6.30-7.00am The 1960s (S) (87125). 7.00 Mr. B (6201). 8.00 Penelope Hap (4997). 8.30 News (233423). 8.45 Y Palmar (342268). 9.45 Film: My Left Foot. Starring Daniel Day-Lewis, Brenda Fricker, Ray McNeilly, Cyril Cusack and Adrian Dunbar. A portrait of Christy Brown, the Irish artist born with cerebral palsy. Directed by Jim Sheridan this biopic is intensely moving and both Daniel Day-Lewis and Brenda Fricker won Oscars for their extraordinary performances. (605064). 11.40-1.40am Film: Outrageous Fortune. Starring Bette Midler, Shelley Long, Peter Coyote and Robert Prosky. Comedy about two women who find out they are both having an affair with the same man after he apparently dies in a mysterious explosion. (641978).

Radio

- Radio 1**
6.00am Simon Mayo's Cold Turkey
11.30 George Michael in Concert
12.00 Charlie Sheen's 30/30
12.00am Evening Session
Reinhold 9.00 Star Review: Shirley Manson 10.00 in Concert Classic
Star 12.00 Mary Anne Hobbs 4.00-8.00am Dave Warren
- Radio 2**
6.00am Alex Lester 8.00 Wake Up to Wogan 10.00 Wogan 3.00am
Christmas Comedy Classics 1.30
Sounds Like Disney 3.00am
Wright 5.00 Christmas on Broadway
6.00 Robinson and Jerome 7.00 My Mammy and Me 7.30 David Allen
9.00 Paul Jones 10.00 Mark Knopfler: Roads 10.30 Vintage Christmas: The Blue Caribbees
11.00 Rob Harris 11.00 Patrick Lunt
3.00-6.00am Mo Dutt
- Radio 3**
6.00am On Air
9.00 Morning Collection
10.00 Musical Encounters
12.00 Composer of the Week: Brahms
1.00 Opera Machine: Fidelio. Haric darsen by Beethoven in which Leonore rescues her husband Florentino from unjust imprisonment.
3.30 Bath Music: 1995. Mozart: The Marriage of Figaro. Piano Concerto in G minor, K478. Brahms: Clarinet Quintet in B minor, Op 115.

Choice

The afternoon play is a slightly overblown version of Ursula Le Guin's *A Wizard of Earthsea* (2pm R4), ostensibly a children's fantasy but rather darker and deeper. Michael Maloney plays the title role, and later on gets a tad actorish in *Daring to Be Dane* (7.20pm R4), an account of his preparations for playing Hamlet.

- Radio 4**
6.00am News
6.10 Farming Today
6.25 Peter for the Day
6.30 The Living World
7.00 Today
7.00 (LW) Test Match Special. Live from Harare with Peter Baxter, Henry Blofeld and Simon Mann.
9.00 (FM) News
9.05 (FM) A Bush with Blest
9.45 (FM) Spide's Place
10.00 (FM) Daily Service
10.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
10.15 (LW) On This Day
10.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
10.30 (LW) Test Match Special. Live from Harare with Peter Baxter, Henry Blofeld and Simon Mann.
11.00 (FM) News
11.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
11.15 (LW) On This Day
11.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
12.00 (FM) Test Match Special. Live from Harare with Peter Baxter, Henry Blofeld and Simon Mann.
12.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
12.15 (LW) On This Day
12.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
1.00 (FM) News
1.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
1.15 (LW) On This Day
1.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
1.45 (FM) Spide's Place
2.00 (FM) Daily Service
2.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
2.15 (LW) On This Day
2.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
2.45 (FM) Spide's Place
3.00 (FM) Daily Service
3.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
3.15 (LW) On This Day
3.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
3.45 (FM) Spide's Place
4.00 (FM) Daily Service
4.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
4.15 (LW) On This Day
4.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
4.45 (FM) Spide's Place
5.00 (FM) Daily Service
5.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
5.15 (LW) On This Day
5.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
5.45 (FM) Spide's Place
6.00 (FM) Daily Service
6.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
6.15 (LW) On This Day
6.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
6.45 (FM) Spide's Place
7.00 (FM) Daily Service
7.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
7.15 (LW) On This Day
7.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
7.45 (FM) Spide's Place
8.00 (FM) Daily Service
8.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
8.15 (LW) On This Day
8.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
8.45 (FM) Spide's Place
9.00 (FM) Daily Service
9.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
9.15 (LW) On This Day
9.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
9.45 (FM) Spide's Place
10.00 (FM) Daily Service
10.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
10.15 (LW) On This Day
10.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
10.45 (FM) Spide's Place
11.00 (FM) Daily Service
11.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
11.15 (LW) On This Day
11.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
11.45 (FM) Spide's Place
12.00 (FM) Daily Service
12.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
12.15 (LW) On This Day
12.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
12.45 (FM) Spide's Place
1.00 (FM) Daily Service
1.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
1.15 (LW) On This Day
1.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
1.45 (FM) Spide's Place
2.00 (FM) Daily Service
2.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
2.15 (LW) On This Day
2.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
2.45 (FM) Spide's Place
3.00 (FM) Daily Service
3.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
3.15 (LW) On This Day
3.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
3.45 (FM) Spide's Place
4.00 (FM) Daily Service
4.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
4.15 (LW) On This Day
4.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
4.45 (FM) Spide's Place
5.00 (FM) Daily Service
5.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
5.15 (LW) On This Day
5.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
5.45 (FM) Spide's Place
6.00 (FM) Daily Service
6.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
6.15 (LW) On This Day
6.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
6.45 (FM) Spide's Place
7.00 (FM) Daily Service
7.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
7.15 (LW) On This Day
7.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
7.45 (FM) Spide's Place
8.00 (FM) Daily Service
8.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
8.15 (LW) On This Day
8.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
8.45 (FM) Spide's Place
9.00 (FM) Daily Service
9.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
9.15 (LW) On This Day
9.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
9.45 (FM) Spide's Place
10.00 (FM) Daily Service
10.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
10.15 (LW) On This Day
10.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
10.45 (FM) Spide's Place
11.00 (FM) Daily Service
11.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
11.15 (LW) On This Day
11.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
11.45 (FM) Spide's Place
12.00 (FM) Daily Service
12.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
12.15 (LW) On This Day
12.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
12.45 (FM) Spide's Place
1.00 (FM) Daily Service
1.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
1.15 (LW) On This Day
1.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
1.45 (FM) Spide's Place
2.00 (FM) Daily Service
2.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
2.15 (LW) On This Day
2.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
2.45 (FM) Spide's Place
3.00 (FM) Daily Service
3.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
3.15 (LW) On This Day
3.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
3.45 (FM) Spide's Place
4.00 (FM) Daily Service
4.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
4.15 (LW) On This Day
4.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
4.45 (FM) Spide's Place
5.00 (FM) Daily Service
5.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
5.15 (LW) On This Day
5.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
5.45 (FM) Spide's Place
6.00 (FM) Daily Service
6.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
6.15 (LW) On This Day
6.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
6.45 (FM) Spide's Place
7.00 (FM) Daily Service
7.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
7.15 (LW) On This Day
7.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
7.45 (FM) Spide's Place
8.00 (FM) Daily Service
8.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
8.15 (LW) On This Day
8.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
8.45 (FM) Spide's Place
9.00 (FM) Daily Service
9.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
9.15 (LW) On This Day
9.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
9.45 (FM) Spide's Place
10.00 (FM) Daily Service
10.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
10.15 (LW) On This Day
10.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
10.45 (FM) Spide's Place
11.00 (FM) Daily Service
11.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
11.15 (LW) On This Day
11.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
11.45 (FM) Spide's Place
12.00 (FM) Daily Service
12.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
12.15 (LW) On This Day
12.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
12.45 (FM) Spide's Place
1.00 (FM) Daily Service
1.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
1.15 (LW) On This Day
1.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
1.45 (FM) Spide's Place
2.00 (FM) Daily Service
2.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
2.15 (LW) On This Day
2.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
2.45 (FM) Spide's Place
3.00 (FM) Daily Service
3.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
3.15 (LW) On This Day
3.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
3.45 (FM) Spide's Place
4.00 (FM) Daily Service
4.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
4.15 (LW) On This Day
4.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
4.45 (FM) Spide's Place
5.00 (FM) Daily Service
5.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
5.15 (LW) On This Day
5.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
5.45 (FM) Spide's Place
6.00 (FM) Daily Service
6.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
6.15 (LW) On This Day
6.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
6.45 (FM) Spide's Place
7.00 (FM) Daily Service
7.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
7.15 (LW) On This Day
7.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
7.45 (FM) Spide's Place
8.00 (FM) Daily Service
8.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
8.15 (LW) On This Day
8.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
8.45 (FM) Spide's Place
9.00 (FM) Daily Service
9.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
9.15 (LW) On This Day
9.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
9.45 (FM) Spide's Place
10.00 (FM) Daily Service
10.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
10.15 (LW) On This Day
10.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
10.45 (FM) Spide's Place
11.00 (FM) Daily Service
11.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
11.15 (LW) On This Day
11.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
11.45 (FM) Spide's Place
12.00 (FM) Daily Service
12.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
12.15 (LW) On This Day
12.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
12.45 (FM) Spide's Place
1.00 (FM) Daily Service
1.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
1.15 (LW) On This Day
1.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
1.45 (FM) Spide's Place
2.00 (FM) Daily Service
2.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
2.15 (LW) On This Day
2.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
2.45 (FM) Spide's Place
3.00 (FM) Daily Service
3.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
3.15 (LW) On This Day
3.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
3.45 (FM) Spide's Place
4.00 (FM) Daily Service
4.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
4.15 (LW) On This Day
4.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
4.45 (FM) Spide's Place
5.00 (FM) Daily Service
5.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
5.15 (LW) On This Day
5.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
5.45 (FM) Spide's Place
6.00 (FM) Daily Service
6.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
6.15 (LW) On This Day
6.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
6.45 (FM) Spide's Place
7.00 (FM) Daily Service
7.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
7.15 (LW) On This Day
7.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
7.45 (FM) Spide's Place
8.00 (FM) Daily Service
8.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
8.15 (LW) On This Day
8.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
8.45 (FM) Spide's Place
9.00 (FM) Daily Service
9.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
9.15 (LW) On This Day
9.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
9.45 (FM) Spide's Place
10.00 (FM) Daily Service
10.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
10.15 (LW) On This Day
10.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
10.45 (FM) Spide's Place
11.00 (FM) Daily Service
11.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
11.15 (LW) On This Day
11.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
11.45 (FM) Spide's Place
12.00 (FM) Daily Service
12.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
12.15 (LW) On This Day
12.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
12.45 (FM) Spide's Place
1.00 (FM) Daily Service
1.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
1.15 (LW) On This Day
1.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
1.45 (FM) Spide's Place
2.00 (FM) Daily Service
2.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
2.15 (LW) On This Day
2.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
2.45 (FM) Spide's Place
3.00 (FM) Daily Service
3.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
3.15 (LW) On This Day
3.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
3.45 (FM) Spide's Place
4.00 (FM) Daily Service
4.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
4.15 (LW) On This Day
4.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
4.45 (FM) Spide's Place
5.00 (FM) Daily Service
5.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
5.15 (LW) On This Day
5.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
5.45 (FM) Spide's Place
6.00 (FM) Daily Service
6.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
6.15 (LW) On This Day
6.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
6.45 (FM) Spide's Place
7.00 (FM) Daily Service
7.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
7.15 (LW) On This Day
7.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
7.45 (FM) Spide's Place
8.00 (FM) Daily Service
8.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
8.15 (LW) On This Day
8.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
8.45 (FM) Spide's Place
9.00 (FM) Daily Service
9.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
9.15 (LW) On This Day
9.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
9.45 (FM) Spide's Place
10.00 (FM) Daily Service
10.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
10.15 (LW) On This Day
10.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
10.45 (FM) Spide's Place
11.00 (FM) Daily Service
11.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
11.15 (LW) On This Day
11.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
11.45 (FM) Spide's Place
12.00 (FM) Daily Service
12.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
12.15 (LW) On This Day
12.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
12.45 (FM) Spide's Place
1.00 (FM) Daily Service
1.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
1.15 (LW) On This Day
1.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
1.45 (FM) Spide's Place
2.00 (FM) Daily Service
2.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
2.15 (LW) On This Day
2.30 (FM) Derek Cooper's Necessary Pleasures
2.45 (FM) Spide's Place
3.00 (FM) Daily Service
3.00 (FM) The Amherst Myth
3.15 (LW) On This Day
3.30

What if...

Southgate had scored and other might-have-beens of '96, Page 21

Quotes of the year

The things they say in the heat of the moment, page 20

England regroup as Lloyd lets off steam

Cricket

DEREK PRINGLE
reports from Harare

It may not feel like the season of goodwill, and Harare is the last place on earth you would expect to see a White Christmas, but that is no excuse for England to play humbug, particularly their coach, David Lloyd, whose latest gaffe was to get involved in a verbal altercation with Ian Goggen, the chairman of the Mashonaland Cricket Association who is an official from the Zimbabwe cricket union, immediately after last Sunday's dramatic finish.

The incident, described in a local paper as "an exchange of words," was heated enough to have been brought to the attention of Hanuman Singh, the match referee. In a statement issued yesterday, Singh decided that no further action would be taken, indicating that the matter had been resolved quickly and amicably.

It is a view unlikely to be taken at face value by the bar-storming new chairman of the England Cricket Board, Lord MacLaurin, who arrives here on Friday. MacLaurin, who has already stated his desire for English cricket to become a more consumer friendly product, is unlikely to have been impressed by this latest indiscretion and will hopefully seek an explanation from Lloyd, who is barred from commenting about it by ICC regulations.

For a series that was meant to be gift-wrapped, it has certainly been a frustrating time for England, who now have five days to salvage something other than ignominy from this tour. It will not be easy, not least because of the weather, and every night so far, Harare has been lit up like Dracula's castle by heavy thunderstorms.



The England coach, David Lloyd, directs the groundstaff as they prepare the nets for yesterday's training session for the Second Test which starts in Harare this morning. Photograph: Chris Turvey/Empics

The pitch, should saturated outfields prove playable, will be slow, and will probably offer some early assistance to the seam bowlers. Unless they drop Phil Tufnell, England's captain, will be to replace Chris Silverwood with Craig White, who despite not having bowled a ball in Zimbabwe is now set to play

irrespective of the final balance of the attack. This gives England an extra batsman to bat at seven behind the six that played in Bulawayo, leaving them - if Tufnell plays - with just two and a half seam bowlers, a risky gambit considering that White has yet to prove his worth at Test level. For

a side whose coach remains convinced that they had "flippin' murdered the opposition," last week, the combination smacks of must-lose defensive overkill. It is also feared that should England bowl first without Silverwood in the side, there will be no one to probe that full wicket-taking length needed

on a slow seamer. Instead an unvarying diet of Mully, Gough and White will prevail, bowlers who all prefer to hit the pitch short of a length, a method that provided a rich source of runs for Zimbabwe's top order in the last Test. Having derived far more than England from the result of

the last Test, Zimbabwe are still likely to make changes and the left-hander Mark Dekker is certain to open the batting in place of Stuart Carlisle, who looked hopelessly out of his depth. Unless Eddo Brandes, who damaged his ankle last week, is fit, the bowling will probably remain unchanged

unless water gets under the covers. For England, who spent the festive season trying to fit in practice between thunderstorms, there is now a Test match to be won. However, before the plotting starts, they may like to consider the ghosts of England tours past.

Since the Boxing Day Test 10 years ago, when Mike Gatting's England last won the Ashes, their record abroad has been appalling. In 42 overseas Tests, including last Sunday's thrilling draw, England have won only five. Evidence that, away from home at least, we don't tend to "flippin' murder" anyone.

Ferguson puts Pearce to the test

Football
PHIL SHAW

Even allowing for a Boxing Day tradition which dictates that the form book goes out of the window, the odds are stacked against the Premiership's newest manager when he pits his wits against his longest-serving counterpart today.

Stuart Pearce is the self-confessed novice taking his second game as caretaker manager of Nottingham Forest, Alex Ferguson the canny veteran presiding over his 542nd in charge of Manchester United. Forest lie bottom of the table; United, who have won the last two meetings 5-0 and 4-1, harbour hopes of retaining their championship.

Pearce has until the end of next month to decide whether he wants the job permanently. He surprised many people, including Arsène Wenger, one suspects, with his approach to Saturday's victory over Arsenal. If the first-shaking and exhortations were entirely pre-

dictable, the imaginative changes in formation and personnel were not.

This afternoon's game will, if anything, be an even sterner test of his tactical acumen. Colin Cooper might be deputised to do the marking job on Eric Cantona that he did so successfully on Paul Merson, though with Ferguson forewarned, "Psycho" may have to come up with fresh strategies. And as if managing the relegation favourites was not hard enough, he also has to play and will doubtless hope Ryan Giggs sticks to the opposite flank.

United are equally desperate for the points. They must avoid losing touch with the teams above them (although the way they came from being 10 points behind Newcastle at the half way stage last season offers encouragement to all) and to confirm that the 5-0 rout of Sunderland really did represent a return to their best.

While the United manager has the option of recalling a fit again Andy Cole against his home-town team, Pearce may

be tempted to start with the o-loan Nigel Clough - who could well become his assistant - in place of Bryan Roy. If that happens and Forest win, it would be a rare instance of a Manchester City player tasting victory over United: Boxing Day magic gone mad.

Because of the demands of television, leaders Liverpool will have played four times in 10 days before New Year's Day is over; likewise Newcastle, but strenuous as the "holiday" schedule is, it offers teams the chance to build momentum and burn off rivals with a rapid accumulation of points.

Liverpool must be confident of maintaining their three-point advantage against Leicester at Anfield. Coincidentally, the clubs met at Filbert Street two years ago today. Of the Leicester line-up that day - which was early in the Mark McGhee era - only Simon Grayson and Mick Whitlow remains. Revealingly, the Liverpool side this afternoon would have been virtually identical but for the departures of Ian Rush and John Scales.

Monsieur Wenger, having been outwitted by Pearce, now comes up against David Platt, a seasoned practitioner in games of cat and mouse, when second-placed Arsenal visit Sheffield Wednesday this evening. By co-incidence, *The Italian Job* will be advertising the virtues of the Mini on television as Platt's clever mini striker from Internazionale, Benito Carbone, attempts to perform one on a defence that will include Tony Adams after suspension.

The West London Azzurri, aka Chelsea, will be hard pressed to give their followers a belated "Buon Natale" at Aston Villa: Ruud Gullit's side have looked a soft touch on their travels whereas Villa's title odds have been slashed from 33-1 to 8-1 after five successive wins. The 5-0 wallop of Wimbledon was only the second time they have scored more than twice in a match all season, so Brian Little must be looking to Savo Milosevic to prove that Sunday was not simply a glorious aberration.

If Villa Park holds bitter-sweet memories for Chelsea, who surrendered a winning position in an FA Cup semi-final there against Manchester United last spring, imagine what emotions Newcastle's return to Blackburn is likely to unleash. For it was at Ewood Park on Easter Monday that one Georgie, Rovers' Graham Fenton, scored twice. In the last four minutes to provoke an outbreak of highly public blabbering among thousands of others.

Newcastle's defeat that night virtually ensured that the championship would go to Old Trafford, but this time Blackburn's other Tynesider, Alan Shearer, is in their colours. Only the most mean-spirited of his once-adoring public will not give the England captain a warm welcome, though the same may not be true of Gary McAllister's return by Coventry to Leeds, whose fans made it clear that they felt their former captain had betrayed them when the clubs met in September. Also going back, to Mid-

dlesbrough, is Everton's Nick Barmby. His old colleagues have not won since he left - the run now stands at 12 matches - and were accused of behaving like a pub team after pulling out of last weekend's fixture at Blackburn. The casualty list at the Riverside is so lengthy that those ghosts of Boxing Day past, Bryan Robson (40 in January) and Viv Anderson (40 already), have put themselves on standby.

Meanwhile, Wimbledon have the perfect opportunity to launch another undefeated sequence when they play host to West Ham, who have not won in nine games. In the unlikely event of the Dons sulking over the end of their four-month run, they may care to reflect on the state they were in going into their Boxing Day match 12 months ago. Lying third from bottom after 14 Premiership games without a win, they triumphed 2-1 at Chelsea despite having Vinnie Jones sent off. Suddenly third from top and one defeat in 20 does not look so bad.

Aberdeen's chance to overhaul Celtic

With the battle for honours in Scotland looking increasingly like a contest for second place, Celtic's visit to Aberdeen today could be crucial.

Rangers are 14 points clear at the top of the table, but second-placed Celtic have Aberdeen breathing down their necks only a point behind. Aberdeen, however, have not beaten Celtic since last April and today they will again be without the suspended Stewart McKimmie.

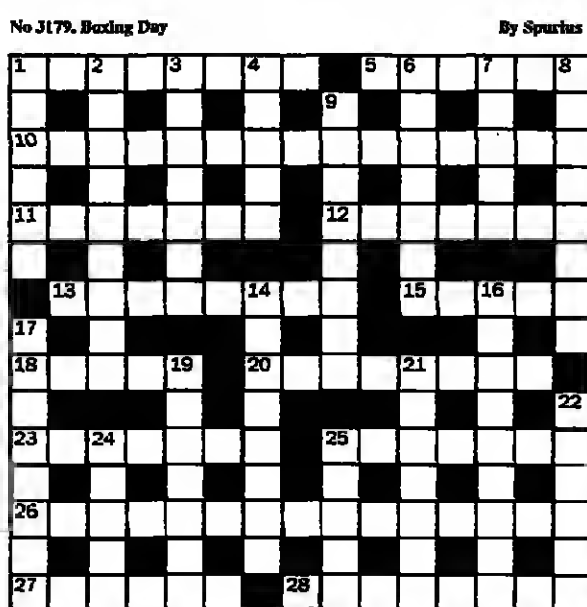
Celtic have Paolo Di Canio back in the squad after his recent suspension, while Jackie McNamara has an outside chance of returning from injury. Andreas Thom is a slight doubt, but Pierre Van Hooydonck could

return after missing three games since facing Rangers on 14 November.

Rangers, who are at home to Raith Rovers, will expect to extend their excellent Premier League home record, which reads eight wins and one draw from nine games. Joachim Björklund, Craig Moore and Peter Van Vossen rejoin the Rangers squad. Raith are seeking their first ever Premier League win against the champions.

John Robertson will be looking for his 200th Scottish League goal for Hearts when they travel to Dunfermline. The home side will be aiming to extend the remarkable run which has lifted them to fourth in the table.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD



By Sparrows
Tuesday's Solution

- ACROSS
- One going on foot across the prairie? (8)
 - Spinner beginning to play in team by mid-April (6)
 - Company of bowmen? (6, 9)
 - Foreign legion wrecked maybe after invasion by German guards (7)
 - Oppressive old tyrant confronting American (7)
 - Show of harefaced cheek, impounding a vehicle - takes the biscuit (8)
 - Fellow surrounded by animals is put off (5)
 - Points made by new poems (5)
 - Female Palace supporter, maybe (8)
 - Committee approve register (7)

- DOWN
- Old weapon found by police crossing river (6)
 - Insubstantial character has the support of the directors (9)
 - Impossibility of recalling one seaman in choppy conditions (7)
 - Hard to define the Socratic method? (5)
 - Not real kid? (7)
 - Party consuming vermouth - time for same again (5)

8. Murmur comforting things in user's ear, perhaps (8)
9. Vessel laden with sherry? (8)
14. Cause for special celebration (8)
16. Painter of landscapes done in oil, elaborately decorated (9)
17. Version of a comic edited, omitting middle part? (8)
19. Grab a bit? (7)
21. Entertainer who might be persuaded to give it a rest (7)
22. Norwegian ready to take king's rook, one on right (6)
24. Fit fur sporting event (5)
25. Small part in play didn't come to anything? (5)

Wenger accuses Jerkan

DERRICK WHYTE

Arsène Wenger, the manager of Arsenal, has accused the Nottingham Forest defender, Nikola Jerkan, of "cheating" during the incident which saw Ian Wright sent off at the City Ground last Saturday.

Arsenal's leading scorer was shown the red card after the Croatian defender fell to the ground following an off-the-ball clash between the two men. Jerkan claimed that his shin had been raked by Wright's studs.

Wright, who has vehemently denied the accusation, now faces a three-match ban, but the referee, Steve Lodge, who admits he did not see the incident but acted on linesman John Holbrook's advice, has promised to look at a video recording.

Arsenal, via the Football Association, have also sent a copy of the film to Holbrook, with Wenger explaining: "I cannot think that the linesman had a good view of it at the time."

"But it is obvious from the film that Jerkan was cheating. I agree Ian Wright might have acted provocatively and I know that we have to adjust our ways to make sure we keep 11 players on the field."

"But the reaction by Jerkan to anything that Wright did was ridiculous. I think the video makes it perfectly clear and I think the matter should be judged on that evidence."

Jerkan had already been shown a yellow card in the game before he deliberately obstructed Ian Wright, which should have produced another yellow card. Instead, just 20 seconds later we had our player sent off instead.

What Jerkan did is something for which foreign players have a bad reputation. Speaking generally, I think an English player would not act like that, but foreigners are bringing bad things as well as good things to the game here."

Jerkan did not act like that, but foreigners are bringing bad things as well as good things to the game here."

Unless the referee changes his mind, Wright's sending-off will carry a three-match ban beginning with Arsenal's FA Cup tie against Sunderland. Even if the red card is commuted to yellow it will still take him beyond the FA's 21-points disciplinary barrier and land him with a two-match suspension.

Middlesbrough could also be in trouble with football's authorities after pulling out of their match at Blackburn last week because they had 23 players unavailable through injuries and illness. They did so without the Premier League's permission and must appear before a League commission on 14 January. They could be fined and have points deducted.

Meanwhile Bryan Robson, Middlesbrough's manager, has responded to criticisms by his Italian striker, Fabrizio Ravanelli, of training facilities and

coaching methods in the Premiership. Ravanelli, whose remarks were made on Italian television, claimed he was forced to train on his own at Middlesbrough using charts supplied by his former club, Juventus.

Robson said: "Ravanelli trained on his own when he stayed behind during our pre-season tours but he does not train on his own now." Robson also said that match preparations were different by necessity in England compared to those in Italy. He pointed out that English teams face a demanding fixture programme whereas Italian teams generally play only on Sundays.

Walsall are to study an FA report into last week's Turf Moor floodlight failure before deciding whether to seek compensation. Walsall were leading 1-0 in the FA Cup second round replay at Burnley a week ago when the lights went out during half-time, forcing the match to be abandoned. Walsall lost the replayed match on Monday.

Sunderland are close to concluding a £400,000 deal with Zeytinburnu for the purchase of the Turkish club's Senegalese striker, Mamadou Diallo. Norwich City have completed the signing of Matthew Jackson from Everton for £450,000, while the Portsmouth striker, Deon Burton, has joined Cardiff City on a month's loan. Sunderland success, page 19

Turkey, broken fairy lights, relatives, turkey, chitty chitty, bang bang, relatives.

Yo-ho-ho.



Bass BEST SELLING PREMIUM CASK ALE SINCE 1777

Published by Newspaper Publishing PLC, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 4DL, and printed at Mirror Colour Print, St Albans Road, Watford and Herts. Back issues available from Historic Newspapers, 01988 840370. Thursday 26 December 1996 Registered as a newspaper with the Post Office

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "السلامة والسلامة"